



Government photos show detained migrants pleading for help

By NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — In one photo, one of 88 men in a cell meant for 41 presses a piece of cardboard against the window, with the word "help." In another, a man lowers his head and clasps his hands as if in prayer. And in a third, a woman wearing a surgical mask presses both of her hands against the glass. The images were released Tuesday by U.S. government inspectors who visited facilities in South Texas where migrant adults and children who crossed the nearby border with Mexico are processed and detained.

Continued on Next Page



A portion of a report from government auditors reveals images of people penned into overcrowded Border Patrol facilities, photographed Tuesday, July 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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GOVERNMENT PHOTOS

Continued from Front

As public outrage grows over the conditions in which thousands of people — some no more than a few months old — are being held by the U.S. government, the report offered new cause for alarm. It quotes one senior government manager as calling the situation "a ticking time bomb."

"Specifically, when detainees observed us, they banged on the cell windows, shouted, pressed notes to the window with their time in custody, and gestured to evidence of their time in custody," the report says. BuzzFeed first reported on a draft version of the report, which blurs most faces in the photos.

An autopsy report also released Tuesday confirmed that a 2-year-old child who died in April had multiple intestinal and infectious respiratory diseases, including the flu. Wilmer Josué Ramírez Vásquez is one of five children to die after being detained by border agents since late last year. Two of the other four also had the flu.

The autopsy report says Wilmer was in "respiratory

distress" April 6 when he was taken to an emergency room. His grandmother, Dorotea Castillo, told The Associated Press in June that Wilmer was already in delicate health when they left Guatemala, and crossed into the U.S. with a high fever and difficulty breathing.

The Border Patrol said after Wilmer's death that it had detained Wilmer and his mother for three days when she told agents her son was ill. It didn't specify if that was the first report or sign that Wilmer was sick. The agency did not respond to follow-up questions sent Tuesday.

Pediatricians called again on border authorities to accept their offer to provide volunteer medical care to migrants in detention. U.S. Customs and Border Protection rejected the offer. Roger Maier, a CBP spokesman, said anyone who needs medical attention beyond what government and contract staff can provide is taken to a local hospital.

The Border Patrol made 132,887 apprehensions in May, including 84,542 adults and children traveling together. With long-



Pediatrician Jos Manuel de la Rosa speaks Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at a shelter in El Paso, Texas, about treating migrant children released from Border Patrol detention centers along the Southwest border.

Associated Press

term facilities for adults and children at capacity, President Donald Trump's administration has said it has to hold people in unsuitable Border Patrol facilities for much longer than the 72 hours normally allowed by law.

Auditors from the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general visited five facilities and two ports of entry in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, where more people cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally than any other section. The dangers there were recently illustrated in images shared around the world showing a young father and daughter who drowned trying to enter the U.S. by crossing the Rio Grande.

In a statement included in the report, DHS blamed "an acute and worsening crisis" and said it had tried to expand detention capacity and improve the conditions under which migrant families are held. DHS did not immediately respond to a request for further comment from The Associated Press.

The photos provided in the report were digitally manipulated to obscure the faces of the prisoners and

therefore did not meet the AP's standards for distribution.

Immigrant advocates blame the Trump administration for refusing to promptly release families, children and people seeking asylum, leading to increased numbers of people detained.

The report details several potential violations of federal law or Border Patrol standards:

— Two facilities inspected had not provided children access to hot meals until the week that auditors arrived. Some adults were only receiving bologna sandwiches, causing constipation and in some cases requiring medical attention. — Of 2,669 children detained by the Border Patrol in the region, 826, or 31%, had been held there longer than 72 hours. More than 50 children under the age of 7 were waiting to be moved to long-term facilities, some of them for more than two weeks. In one photo, women and children appeared to be sleeping on the ground under Mylar blankets.

— Many adults hadn't showered despite having been held for as long as a

month. Some were being given wet wipes to clean themselves.

The report also detailed "security incidents" at multiple facilities, including one case in which detained migrants refused to re-enter their cell after it had been cleaned. People detained have also in some cases clogged toilets with their Mylar blankets and socks in order to be let out of the cells.

The report was released a day after a group of Democratic congressmen visited the Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, on the other side of the state, where lawyers previously reported some 250 children being detained in squalid conditions. One of the congressmen, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas, alleged that a woman told them she was instructed to drink water from a toilet. Castro shared a video he took from inside one facility.

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, said top Homeland Security leaders would testify before his committee next week on the treatment of migrant children. □

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GOP political donation tool to rival Trump's preferred app

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Texas company is launching a new political donation app for Republicans that will rival a similar platform already adopted by President Donald Trump, a move that could compli-

podge of more than a dozen for-profit companies to collect online contributions. That cedes an advantage to a monolithic platform like ActBlue, which allows donors to give to candidates up and down the

sociated Press show that Republican leaders have incentivized the adoption of WinRed.

A National Republican Congressional Committee official wrote in one message this month that

members of Congress who adopt the platform can get a break of up to \$20,000 on their membership dues, a term used for the campaign cash they are expected to give to Republican political com-

mittees.

A spokesman for WinRed did not respond to a request for comment.

Dietzel says his app will be used by state parties across the U.S. and by several GOP governors. □



In this March 29, 2019 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks to reporters during a visit to Lake Okeechobee and Herbert Hoover Dike at Canal Point, Fla.

Associated Press

cate GOP efforts to match Democrats' online fundraising success.

Give.GOP will launch on Tuesday. It comes a week after the rollout of WinRed, a platform adopted by all national Republican campaign committees and praised by Trump via tweet after its debut.

Top Republican leaders and donors have sought to find one platform for their online giving since Democrats' online giving portal, ActBlue, played a pivotal role in their 2018 midterm success. The nonprofit served as a conduit that funneled more than \$1.6 billion to Democratic campaigns.

Republicans' campaigns, however, use a hodge-

podge of more than a dozen for-profit companies to collect online contributions.

Give.GOP founder Paul Dietzel said efforts by national Republicans to adopt one online giving platform run counter to long-standing GOP beliefs in "free markets, equal opportunity and capitalism."

Dietzel also is the CEO of another online donation company that Republicans have used, Anedot, and he said some have likened the party's top-down effort to socialism.

"This sounds a lot like AOC, not the Republican Party," he said, using the initials for outspoken New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who identifies as a democratic socialist.

Emails obtained by The As-



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Trump touts July 4 military 'salute'; critics see politics

By ROBERT BURNS, LOLITA C. BALDOR and DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump marshaled tanks, bombers and other machinery of war on Tuesday for a Fourth of July celebration that traditionally is light on military might, while critics accused him of using America's military as a political prop.

Under White House direction, the Pentagon was scrambling to arrange for an Air Force B-2 stealth bomber and other warplanes to conduct flyovers of the celebration on the National Mall. There will be Navy F-35 and F-18 fighter jets, the Navy Blue Angels aerial acrobatics team, Army and Coast Guard helicopters and Marine V-22 Ospreys.

A small number of 60-ton Army Abrams battle tanks were sent to Washington by rail to be positioned on or near the National Mall, though the District of Columbia government fired back with its own verbal salvo.

"Tanks, but no tanks," it tweeted, adding that the Pentagon itself said last year that a tank's steel tracks could damage city roadways. Also scheduled to make appearances over the Mall are the presidential Air Force One and Marine One aircraft.

Trump, casting the extravaganza as a "Salute to America," tweeted on Tuesday that military leaders are "thrilled" to participate. If so, they were hiding it well. Pentagon officials referred questions to the White House. Military officials would not even say on the record whether Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, plans to attend.



Visitors to the National Mall walk near the Lincoln Memorial as workers set up for President Donald Trump's 'Salute to America' event honoring service branches on Independence Day, Tuesday, July 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

"Military Leaders are thrilled to be doing this & showing to the American people, among other things, the strongest and most advanced Military anywhere in the World," Trump tweeted. "Incredible Flyovers & biggest ever Fireworks!"

"This is raw politicization," countered Loren DeJonge Schulman, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security and a Pentagon and White House official during the Obama administration. She said in an email exchange that Trump's use of the military appears to be less about honoring the men and women serving in uniform than about trying to "brag to and humor" his political cronies.

Rep. Betty McCollum complained, "Mr. Trump is hijacking the celebration and twisting it into a taxpayer-funded, partisan political rally that's more about promoting a Trumpian cult of personality than the spirit of

American independence and freedom. The Minnesota Democrat, who chairs the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, said the Interior Department and the Pentagon have not answered multiple requests for details on how much the event will cost.

White House officials sought to counter the criticism by stressing that the president would deliver a patriotic speech at the Lincoln Memorial during an event that he has billed as honoring the U.S. armed forces.

The administration undercut its own assertion of it being a nonpolitical event, however, when senior presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway said the speech will highlight "the success of this administration in opening up so many jobs for individuals, what we've done for veterans," in addition to celebrating democracy, patriotism and the military. A fundamental feature of the military's role in Ameri-

can democracy is its insulation from politics, which is meant to ensure the armed forces' loyalty to the Constitution rather than to an individual elected leader. That is why, for example, members of the military are not allowed to participate in political campaigns, and why Trump's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, slow-rolled a White House plan for a Veterans Day military parade last year.

Muscular military displays of the kind that are common in authoritarian countries like China and North Korea are not quintessentially American, although military bands and honor guards customarily participate in holiday parades and warplanes sometimes are used in flyovers at big sporting events. The U.S. traditionally has not embraced showy exhibitions of raw military power as a claim of international prestige and influence.

Trump had wanted a mili-

tary parade of tanks and other equipment in Washington after he watched a military parade on Bastille Day in Paris in 2017. His plan eventually was scuttled, partly because of cost, though he apparently held on to the idea. Local officials objected at that time, too.

A ticket-only area in front of the Lincoln Memorial is being set aside for VIPs, including members of Trump's family, friends and members of the military, the White House said.

The Republican National Committee is distributing a "small number" of tickets to the event, which it says is standard practice and follows what the Democratic National Committee did under Democratic presidents. However, those were smaller events at the White House, for example, and not major productions taking over the National Mall.

David Lapan, a retired Marine colonel and former senior spokesman at the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security, said enlisting troops for a Fourth of July event in the nation's capital only adds to their stress.

"After 18-plus years of war, we have asked a lot of our military and their families, and they have sacrificed," Lapan said. "Let's give them a day off rather than a day on for this holiday."

Some Democrats in Congress objected to what they saw as Trump's political motives.

"Most shameful of all is the fact that our military is being co-opted for a gratuitous display of strength by a commander in chief who relishes the attention of dictators and despots," she said. □



In this Jan. 14, 2016 file photo, a drainage pipe that was the original culprit of a coal ash spill that was one of the worst in U.S. history is seen at the Dan River Steam Station in Eden, N.C.

Associated Press

U.S. won't impose rule to protect against coal ash spill costs

By **MATTHEW BROWN BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)** —

The Trump administration said Tuesday that it won't require electric utilities to show they have money to clean up hazardous spills from power plants despite a history of toxic coal ash releases contaminating rivers and aquifers.

Environmental Protection Agency officials said Tuesday that modern industry practices and recently enacted regulations are sufficient to shield taxpayers from potential cleanup costs.

The finding comes after the EPA last year reversed a related proposal under President Barack Obama that would have imposed new financial requirements on the hardrock mining industry.

In both cases, industry lobbyists pushed back against requirements that could have meant higher costs for companies.

The Associated Press reported last year that major utilities across the nation have found evidence of groundwater contamination at landfills and ponds used for decades as dumping grounds for coal ash.

Heightened levels of pollutants — including arsenic and radium in some cases — were documented at plants in numerous states, from Virginia and Montana to Alaska.

Utilities and other companies in 2017 produced more than 111 million tons (101 million metric tons) of coal ash, primarily from burning the fuel for power generation, according to the American Coal Ash Association. Much of the ash is recycled or used for industrial purposes such as concrete additives, but huge volumes end up in long-term storage.

Coal ash disposal went largely unregulated until a 2008 spill at a Tennessee Valley Authority power plant in Kingston, Tennessee. A containment dike burst and flooding covered less than half a square mile (nearly 1.2 square kilometers), dumped waste into two nearby rivers, destroyed homes and brought national attention to the issue.

In 2014, an estimated 39,000 tons (35,380 metric tons) of coal ash spewed into the Dan River after a drainage pipe running below a waste dump collapsed at a Duke Energy plant in Eden, North Carolina. The toxic sludge turned the river gray for more than 70 miles (112 kilometers).

Those accidents helped spur new EPA regulations in 2015 that were intended to increase oversight of the industry.

Under Trump, the EPA is in the process of revising the 2015 coal ash rules. □



In this April 25, 2019 photo, Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano, background, towers over the summit crater of Kilauea volcano in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island.

Alert level increased at world's largest volcano in Hawaii

By **CALEB JONES**
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Federal officials raised the alert level Tuesday for the world's largest active volcano, Hawaii's Mauna Loa, which last erupted in 1984.

The U.S. Geological Survey changed the level from "normal" to "advisory" following a steady increase in earthquakes and ground swelling that began in March.

An eruption is not imminent, but scientists are closely monitoring Mauna Loa because of its reputation for "evolving very quickly" and sending lava far and wide, USGS research geophysicist Ingrid Johanson told The Associated Press in a phone interview last month.

"Lava can go from the rift down to the ocean on the west side of Mauna Loa on the order of a couple hours," Johanson said. "The rate of the eruption is just really fast."

Mauna Loa has erupted 33 times since 1843.

Its lava flows have stretched to the south and west coasts eight times and neared Hilo, on the east side, seven times. During its last eruption, lava flows came within 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers) of Hilo, the Big Island's largest city.

The alert level on Mauna Loa was last raised to advisory in 2015. A similar pe-

riod of increased activity occurred around 2004, but the USGS Volcano Alert Level system was not yet in place at that time.

"Advisory" is the second of four alert levels and means scientists have detected elevated activity or unrest. The next level, "watch," means there is heightened activity with more potential for eruption or that an eruption is ongoing but poses little threat. The highest level, "warning," means a dangerous eruption is imminent or underway.

An alert-level change is not something the USGS does lightly, said Janet Babb, an agency geologist and spokeswoman. It must balance the need to keep people informed and the risk of causing panic. "A lot of discussion goes into it because it has ramifications," Babb said.

Mauna Loa currently is experiencing 50 to 75 earthquakes a week, a steady increase since March when there was a pronounced change. And the bulging of the ground, known as deformation, indicates magma is entering the volcano's plumbing system.

Yet gas emissions have been low and steady in recent months, and "that tells us that there isn't magma rising to very shallow depths," Johanson said.

And scientists would expect

to see 50 to several hundred earthquakes per day — not per week — ahead of an eruption, USGS volcanologist and geologist Frank Trusdell said.

"It's above background, but it isn't the amount of earthquakes we would expect to see prior to an eruption," Trusdell said.

Mauna Loa's smaller neighbor to the south, Kilauea, has long been the world's most active volcano.

It made headlines last year as molten rock exploded from its flank in one of its largest eruptions in recorded history. More than 700 Big Island homes were destroyed and thousands of people were displaced.

Trusdell said there is historical evidence of a "general correlation" between the two volcanoes.

"If you look at the long-term eruptive history of both volcanoes, when one volcano in the past was active, it seems like the other volcano was quiet," Trusdell said. Kilauea stopped erupting for the first time in more than 30 years in 2018.

But "it is not as if Kilauea is stealing Mauna Loa's volume," he said. "It has more to do with the interaction and the buttressing of the volcanoes."

"With the eruption over in (Kilauea's) east rift zone, maybe the flank will stop," Trusdell said. □

Big business to Supreme Court: Defend LGBTQ people from bias

By DAVID CRARY
P National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 200 corporations, including many of America's best-known companies, are urging the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that federal civil rights law bans job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The corporations outlined their stance in a legal brief released Tuesday by a coalition of five LGBTQ rights groups. The brief is being submitted to the Supreme Court this week ahead of oral arguments before the justices on Oct. 8 on three cases that may determine whether gays, lesbians and transgender people are protected from discrimination by existing federal civil rights laws.

Among the 206 corporations endorsing the brief were Amazon, American Airlines, Bank of America, Ben & Jerry's, Coca-Cola, Domino's Pizza, Goldman Sachs, IBM, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Nike, Starbucks, Viacom, the Walt Disney Co. and Xerox. Two major league baseball teams, the San Francisco Giants and the Tampa Bay Rays, were among the group.



This Oct. 4, 2018, file photo shows the U.S. Supreme Court at sunset in Washington.

Associated Press

In their brief, the companies argued that a uniform federal rule is needed to protect LGBTQ employees equally in all 50 states.

"Even where companies voluntarily implement policies to prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination, such policies are not a substitute for the force of law," the brief argued. "Nor is the patchwork of incomplete state or local laws sufficient protection — for example, they cannot account for the cross-state mobility requirements of the modern workforce."

Such friend-of-the-court briefs are routinely submitted by interested parties ahead of major Supreme Court hearings. The extent to which they might sway justices is difficult to assess, but in this case it's an effective way for the corporations to affirm support for LGBTQ employees.

Federal appeals courts in Chicago and New York have ruled recently that gay and lesbian employees are entitled to protection from discrimination; the federal appeals court in Cincinnati has extended similar protections for trans-

gender people.

The question now is whether the Supreme Court will follow suit, given its conservative majority strengthened by President Donald Trump's appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. The three cases are the court's first on LGBTQ rights since the retirement last year of Justice Anthony Kennedy, who authored landmark gay rights opinions.

The Obama administration had supported treating LGBTQ discrimination claims as sex discrimination, but the Trump administration has changed course. The Trump Justice Department has argued that the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 was not intended to provide protections to gay or transgender workers.

The companies signing the brief represent more than 7 million employees and \$5 trillion in annual revenue, according to the Human Rights Campaign, the largest of the LGBTQ rights groups organizing the initiative. Other organizers included Lambda Legal, Out Leadership, Out and Equal, and Freedom for All Americans.

"At this critical moment in the fight for LGBTQ equality, these leading businesses are sending a clear message to the Supreme Court that LGBTQ people should, like their fellow Americans, continue to be protected from discrimination," said Jay Brown, a Human Rights

Campaign vice president. "These employers know firsthand that protecting the LGBTQ community is both good for business and the right thing to do."

In one of the cases heading to the Supreme Court, the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of a gay skydiving instructor who claimed he was fired because of his sexual orientation. The appeals court ruled that "sexual orientation discrimination is motivated, at least in part, by sex and is thus a subset of sex discrimination."

The ruling was a victory for the relatives of Donald Zarda, now deceased, who was fired in 2010 from a skydiving job that required him to strap himself tightly to clients so they could jump in tandem from an airplane. He tried to put a woman with whom he was jumping at ease by explaining that he was gay. The school fired Zarda after the woman's boyfriend called to complain.

A second case comes from Michigan, where a funeral home fired a transgender woman. The appeals court in Cincinnati ruled that the firing constituted sex discrimination under federal law.

The funeral home argues that Congress was not considering transgender people when it included sex discrimination in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The law prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

The third case is from Georgia, where the federal appeals court ruled against a gay employee of Clayton County, in the Atlanta suburbs. Gerald Bostock claimed he was fired in 2013 because he is gay. The county argues that Bostock was let go because of the results of a financial audit.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Bostock's claim in an opinion noting the court was bound by a 1979 decision that held "discharge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII." □

Border activist to be retried in case on aiding migrants

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A border activist will be retried after a jury was unable to reach a verdict on charges related to aiding migrants near Arizona's border with Mexico, U.S. prosecutors said Tuesday.

The government dropped a conspiracy charge and will retry Scott Warren on Nov. 12 on two counts of harboring migrants, said Glenn McCormick, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Humanitarian groups say their work on the border has increasingly come under scrutiny under the administration of President Donald Trump, who takes a

hardline approach to immigration. They say Warren's prosecution could deter those trying to help bordercrossers in desperate need of water or other necessities.

Thousands of migrants have died crossing the border since the mid-1990s, when heightened enforcement pushed migrant traffic into Arizona's scorching deserts.

Warren, 36, was arrested early last year. During his trial in June, defense attorneys argued the college geography instructor was just being kind by giving two migrants water, food and lodging.

Prosecutors countered that the migrants were not in distress when the aid was given at a property used for helping migrants near the border.

Warren's supporters cheered him outside the federal courthouse on Tuesday after prosecutors announced their decision. The volunteer with the No More Deaths humanitarian group thanked them and said his case had raised the public's consciousness.

He also said his trial had led to "more volunteers who want to stand in solidarity with migrants, local residents stiffened in their resistance to border walls

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NTSB: Crew spoke of engine trouble before deadly Texas crash

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Seconds before a small plane crashed at a suburban Dallas airport, killing all 10 people on board, the crew commented on a problem with the left engine, federal officials said Tuesday.

The Beechcraft BE-350 King Air struggled to gain altitude before veering to the left and crashing into a hangar Sunday morning at the Addison Municipal Airport, killing a family of four, two couples and two crew members, witnesses and authorities said.

A cockpit voice recorder captured the pilots' apparent confusion as the plane headed down the runway, Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Tuesday at a news conference.

Four seconds later, the pilots indicated there was a problem with the left engine, Landsberg said. After another five seconds, three alarms sounded, warning pilots that the plane was banked too sharply to one side. The recording ended moments later, about a minute after the crew members were cleared for takeoff on their route to St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dallas County officials identified the victims as: 71-year-old Howard Hale Cassady, 52-year-old Brian Mark Ellard, 45-year-old Ornella Ellard, 15-year-old Alice Giovanna Maritato, 13-year-old Dylan Rocco Maritato, 28-year-old Matthew John Palmer, 57-year-old Gina Cunningham Thelen, 58-year-old Stephen Lee Thelen, 61-year-old John Leo Titus, and 60-year-

old Mary Martha Titus.

Cassady had the same type of advanced license required of airline pilots, and was licensed to fly several types of turboprops and jets including planes made by Beechcraft, Gulfstream and Learjet, according to federal records. Palmer had a commercial pilot's license, which would have let him work on flights with paying passengers.

The Catholic Diocese of Dallas says the Ellards were married and Ornella was the mother of Alice and Dylan Maritato.

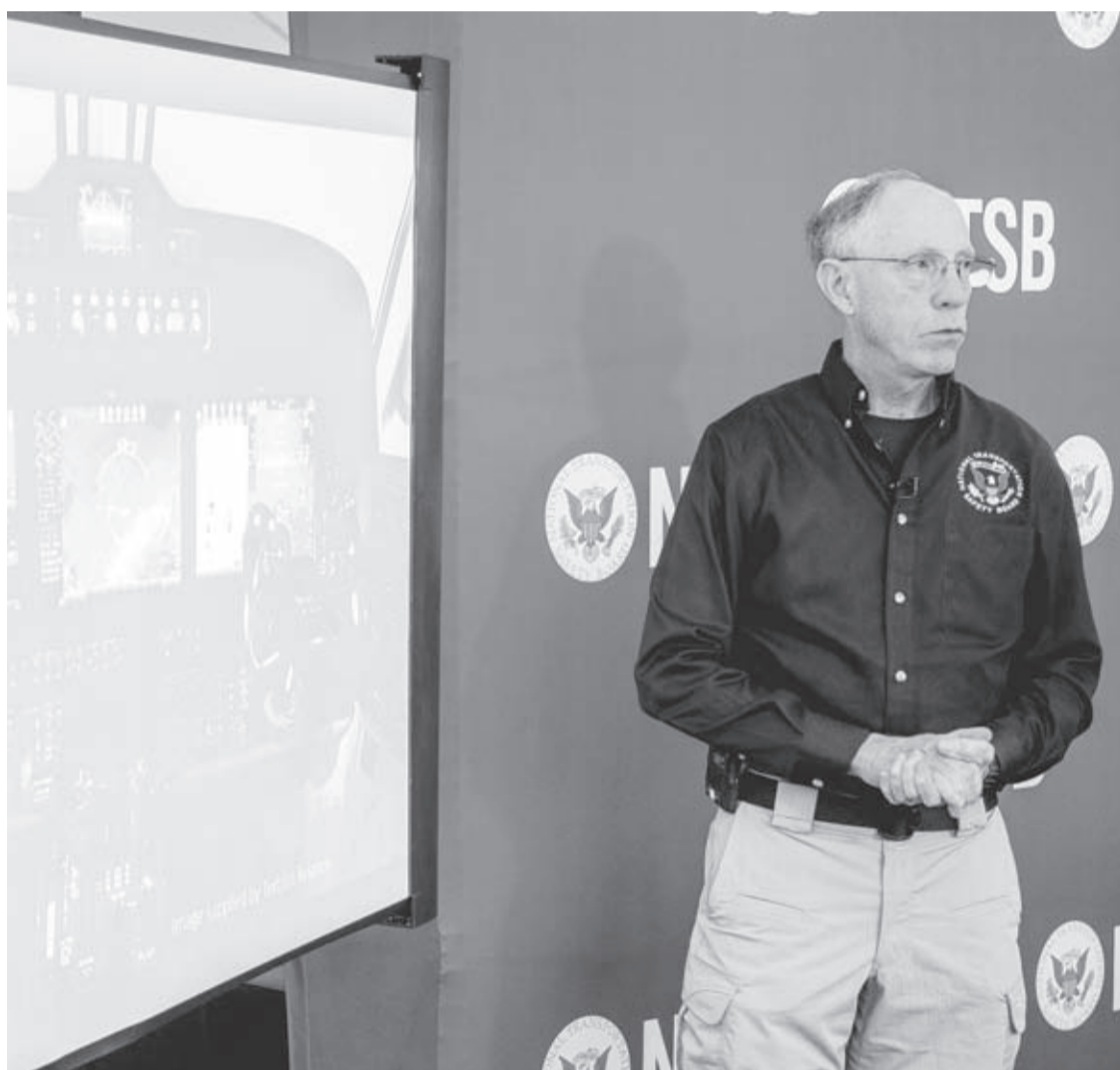
Mary Titus, who was married to John Titus, was a league director for Tennis Competitors of Dallas, said Jinky Hicks, the group's presiding director. She said five other members of the tennis organization were also on the plane.

Stephen Thelen was a managing director for Chicago-based real estate company JLL, working in its Dallas office, the company said. He was married to Gina Thelen.

Technical experts will review the cockpit recording in Washington and produce a transcript, which the NTSB will release along with other reports from its investigation, Landsberg said.

NTSB investigators said they don't know yet if the captain or co-pilot was flying the plane. The board is reviewing records for both, including their recent flights. The NTSB interviewed a pilot who flew with the captain several weeks ago and reported nothing unusual, officials said.

The private plane was not required to have a flight



Bruce Landsberg, vice chair of NTSB, gives remarks during a press conference in Million Air Dallas terminal at Addison Airport in Addison, Texas on Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

data recorder, which tracks the performance of virtually every system on board. Federal investigators will rely on physical evidence at the crash site, video, radar information and witness accounts to determine the cause of the crash.

Officials had indicated that the plane was almost completely destroyed in the fire, but they said Tuesday that they'll be able to analyze significant parts.

Lead NTSB investigator Jennifer Rodi said both engines and their propeller assemblies were recovered Monday and were being

disassembled for closer examination. She said the main part of the fuselage was destroyed but a piece of the tail assembly "larger than I am" survived. She said investigators will try to piece together, like a puzzle, parts of the wings. Investigators have video from four cameras, including two positioned at the end of the runway.

The NTSB said the airplane had been topped off with fuel before takeoff. The crash created a plume of thick, black smoke.

NTSB officials said they expect to wrap up their work

at the crash site Wednesday afternoon. Investigators continued to scour the airport Tuesday as Addison prepares for its Independence Day fireworks display and airshow.

The damaged hangar is "well beyond the fallout area" of the Wednesday night pyrotechnics, said town spokeswoman Mary Rosenbleeth.

The event will include a message of thanks to the police and firefighters who responded to the crash and a moment of silence to recognize the victims, Rosenbleeth said. □

Von der Leyen: pro-EU fixture in Merkel's Cabinets

BERLIN (AP) — Ursula von der Leyen, a surprise choice to become the next head of the European Commission, is a strong supporter of closer European cooperation who has been Germany's defense minister since 2013 and a fixture in Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet over the longtime leader's nearly 14 years in power.

Von der Leyen, 60, was born in Brussels and spent her early years in the Belgian capital. She speaks fluent English and French, having studied at the London School of Economics in the 1970s and lived in Stanford, California, from 1992 to 1996.

She was long viewed as a potential successor to Merkel, but has had a tough tenure at the head of the notoriously difficult defense ministry and had long since faded out of contention by the time Merkel stepped down last year as leader of her center-right Christian Democratic Union party. Still, von der Leyen — a medical doctor and mother of seven — played a sig-



In this Aug. 2, 2017 file photo German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen arrives for the cabinet meeting of the German government at the chancellery in Berlin.

Associated Press

nificant role in modernizing the image of her party during the Merkel years, over which it dominated the political middle ground. As minister for families in Merkel's first Cabinet from 2005 to 2009, she introduced benefits encouraging fathers to look after their young children.

Von der Leyen then served

as labor minister until 2013, when she became Germany's first female defense minister. In that job, she championed greater European cooperation.

"Europe won't get ahead in the game of global powers if some discreetly hold back when military deployments come up and others rush ahead without consulting,"

she said shortly after taking over the defense ministry. She followed that up by declaring that "it's important that Germany takes more responsibility within our alliances — within the European alliance and within NATO."

Shortly after Britain voted to leave the European Union in 2016, she said that Brexit offered the bloc an opportunity to press ahead with greater military cooperation.

"Britain consistently blocked everything that had Europe written on it," von der Leyen said. She argued that closer military ties between member states could help ease the frustration many voters feel about the EU's inability to tackle major issues.

In a defense policy review issued at the same time, the government said citizens of other EU countries could be allowed to serve in the German army.

In an interview with news magazine Der Spiegel in 2011, as the eurozone debt crisis rumbled, von der Leyen declared a loftier goal for Europe. "My aim is the United States of Europe — on the model of federal states such as Switzerland, Germany or the U.S." She said that Europe could use its "size advantage" on financial, taxation and economic questions.

Von der Leyen has presided recently over increased

German military spending, though it still falls well short of the 2% of gross domestic product that the United States wants to see from its NATO partners. Members of the alliance agreed in 2014 to "aim to move toward" increasing defense spending to 2% of GDP by 2024, though Germany has said it doesn't expect to meet that goal.

Merkel said Tuesday that von der Leyen "enjoys great confidence" among European leaders, pointing to her involvement in a NATO force in the Aegean Sea during the migrant influx, Germany's help in patrolling the airspace of Baltic countries and her commitment to Europe.

Von der Leyen comes from a political family and is the daughter of a former governor of her home state of Lower Saxony, Ernst Albrecht, who before that was a senior European civil servant. She has been a deputy leader of Merkel's CDU since 2010. Over the years, she was often talked about as a potential successor to Merkel, though she herself publicly dismissed such talk. "In every generation, there is one chancellor," she said in 2013. "In my generation, that is Angela Merkel."

In her time as defense minister, von der Leyen faded out of speculation about the succession. Inheriting a military in the midst of a massive change from conscription to a professional force, she increasingly had to deal with negative headlines of her own and others' making.

Merkel's junior coalition partners in Berlin, the center-left Social Democrats, weren't impressed with the nomination of von der Leyen or the overall package put together Tuesday by EU leaders. Merkel said she abstained in EU leaders' otherwise-unanimous nomination of von der Leyen because of the lack of unity at home.

A former Social Democrat leader, ex-European Parliament president Martin Schulz, tweeted that she "is the weakest minister here." □

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Non-OPEC members back cartel's extension of production cuts

By KIYOKO METZLER
DAVID RISING

VIENNA (AP) — OPEC members won the support Tuesday of other major oil producing nations to extend a production cut for another nine months in a bid to shore up prices at a time of waning demand. Member nations of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Monday agreed to the extension. With strong backing from Russia, the biggest member of the non-OPEC group meeting Tuesday, the others unanimously approved the proposal. "In order to help maintain the current stable status of the market and avoid buildup of inventories, we have decided to keep the level and the magnitude of the cuts intact," Russian Energy Minister Alexander



Russian Minister of Energy Alexander Novak, Venezuela's Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernandez People's Minister of Petroleum, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo OPEC Secretary General of Nigeria and Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia, at meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, at their headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Tuesday July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Novak told the forum after the vote.

The 10 non-OPEC nations present at the meeting at OPEC's headquarters in Vi-

enna also included Mexico, Bahrain, Oman and Kazakhstan. The United States, one of the world's major oil producers, is not involved

in the discussions and won't be bound by any agreement.

Opening the Tuesday meeting, Novak urged ap-

proval of the extension.

"In the current unstable market and the huge uncertainty we are seeing, our coordinated action aimed at consecutive and stable supply to the market and ensuring its stability are key to give us longer visibility," Novak said.

Heading into the meeting, OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia said the nine-month extension was the right move to make given the current market conditions.

"I see demand picking up strongly in the second half of the year and I see compliance greatly improving," Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih told reporters. "And I see the length of this agreement as nine months sufficiently long to bring inventories down and to balance the market." □

Internet restored in Ethiopia 10 days after assassinations

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ethiopia has begun restoring internet access Tuesday, 10 days after it was cut following the assassinations of six top government officials.

On June 22, attackers shot and killed the Amhara governor and two other officials. On the same night in Addis Ababa, the country's army chief and his close friend, a retired army general, were assassinated inside his residence by his bodyguard.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the killings in Amhara were a coup attempt. The internet was shut following the killings.

The internet shutdown affected the entire country but in recent days a few locations were able to function.

"Internet has been restored in Addis Ababa today and it will be restored in other locations across the country as well, step by step," Cherer Aklilu, secretary director of Ethio Telecom, told the

Associated Press on Tuesday. "All internet packages that users bought but were not able to use during the internet cut will be reimbursed."

Ethio Telecom, the country's state-owned monopoly of telecommunications services, also cut internet access two weeks ago during national school exams. NetBlocks, an internet monitoring group, estimated Ethiopia was losing a minimum of \$4.5 million a day during the internet cut. □



Meskel Square stands empty in central Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Associated Press

All-Afghan peace summit set for July, but on Taliban terms

By KATHY GANNON
AMIR SHAH

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A surprise announcement by President Donald Trump seemed to accelerate the expected time frame for U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan ahead of an all-Afghan peace summit planned for July 7-8 in Qatar. The gathering apparently will be held on Taliban terms as there will be no official Afghan government representation.

Trump told Fox News Channel's Tucker Carlson Tonight on Monday that nearly half of all American troops have already been pulled out.

That pullout was expected to be announced as part of a time frame being negotiated by Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who is in the middle of talks with the Taliban in Qatar.

"I've wanted to pull them out. And you know, I have pulled a lot out. We were at 16,000. We're down to about 9,000, which a lot of people don't know," Trump said, according to the transcript of the interview shared with The Associated Press. "So we've reduced the force very substantial-



In this file photo taken on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban group's top political leader, left, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, the Taliban's chief negotiator, second left, and other members of the Taliban delegation speak to reporters prior to their talks in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

ly in Afghanistan, which I don't talk about very much, and that's okay," Trump added.

The Taliban's spokesman in Doha, Suhail Shaheen, has said that talks with Khalilzad are focused on a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan. In a tweet on Monday, Shaheen had said talks would come with an announcement of a timetable for withdrawal of the

estimated 20,000 service personnel, nearly 14,000 of whom are Americans.

Trump's comments Monday would seem to contradict a statement made by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a visit to Kabul on June 25. Pompeo said then that Washington had made no decision on a timeframe for withdrawal.

Trump also said in the Monday TV interview that he

wanted to leave a strong intelligence gathering force behind in Afghanistan.

"I'll tell you the problem is, look, I would like to just get out. The problem is, (Afghanistan) just seems to be a lab for terrorists. It seems — I call it the Harvard of terrorists. ... But I would leave very strong intelligence there," he said, according to the transcript.

Meanwhile, on the upcom-

ing all-Afghan dialogue, Germany's special representative Ambassador Markus Potzel said Tuesday that those attending "will participate only in their personal capacity and on an equal footing."

The Taliban have flatly refused to meet with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's government, which they consider a U.S. puppet, while repeatedly offering talks with anyone who comes to the table as an ordinary Afghan. The Taliban have already twice met with prominent Afghans, including former president Hamid Karzai and even members of the government's peace council as well as opposition politicians. Those meetings have both been held in Moscow. The announced talks come a day after the Taliban claimed responsibility for a devastating attack in the Afghan capital of Kabul that killed at least six people and wounded more than 100 others, many of them children attending two schools in the area, according to the Education Ministry.

Ghani has not responded to the announcement of next week's talks. □

Multiple walls collapse in India monsoon rains, 27 killed



Rescuers and onlookers stand at the spot of a wall collapse in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

By RAFIQ MAQBOOL

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Heavy monsoon rains in western India caused at least three walls to collapse onto huts and city shanties,

killing at least 27 people and injuring dozens of others, officials said Tuesday, as forecasters warned of more rains.

At least 18 people were

killed and 66 others injured after a 10-meter (35-foot) wall demarcating an urban forest collapsed during the night in Mumbai, police officer Sunil Deshmukh said.

Rescue teams with sniffer dogs were searching the area afterward, and rescuers from the Indian navy also fanned out to help and rescue residents of the waterlogged city that is India's financial and entertainment capital.

Nine deaths were caused by two wall collapses elsewhere in Maharashtra state.

Six migrant construction workers were killed and five injured when a wall collapsed on their tin-roofed huts in Pune early Tuesday, an officer in the city's Police Control Room said.

In Thane district, a school

wall collapsed and fell onto huts, killing three people and injuring one, said Lakshman Pawar, a local civic official.

The monsoon season in India brings heavy rains from June to September that cause flooding and other damage. Building collapses are common as the rains weaken the foundations of poorly built structures. On Saturday, another wall collapse in Pune had killed 16 people living in a cluster of tin-roofed huts housing migrant workers and their families.

Monday's rains also flooded roads in Mumbai and waterlogged train tracks. India's Central Railway said in a tweet that "nature's fury" made operating trains a "safety hazard" in some areas. Trains were running

at partial service Tuesday after thousands of passengers had been stranded overnight.

Millions of passengers commute daily on a network of famed railways in Mumbai. The city has witnessed incessant rainfall over the past few days and floodwaters have entered homes. A public holiday was declared for Tuesday and the Maharashtra government said only emergency services would be functional.

Maharashtra's chief minister Devendra Fadnavis tweeted: "People are advised to stay indoors unless there is any emergency." Weather officials said Mumbai received the highest rainfall in a decade over a two-day period since Sunday. □



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Fire kills 14 Russian sailors aboard deep-sea submersible

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW (AP) — Fire broke out on one of the Russian navy's deep-sea research submersibles, and toxic fumes from the blaze killed 14 sailors aboard, Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday, although it released few details about the disaster or the vessel involved. The Defense Ministry did not say how many sailors were aboard the vessel during Monday's fire, whether there were any survivors or if it was submerged at the time. But Russian media reported it was the country's most secret submersible, a nuclear-powered vessel designed for sensitive missions at great depths. President Vladimir Putin, who came under criticism for his handling of the Kursk nuclear submarine disaster in 2000 that killed 118 sailors, canceled a scheduled appearance and immediately summoned Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for a briefing on the blaze, which was under investigation. "Fourteen submariners have died of poisoning by fumes from the fire," Shoigu told Putin during a televised meeting. "The fire was extinguished thanks to the crew's resolute action." Putin ordered Shoigu to fly to the Arctic port of Severomorsk, the main base for Russia's Northern Fleet where the vessel was brought, to oversee the investigation and report back to him personally. "It's a huge loss for the navy," Putin said. "I offer my sincere condolences to the families of the victims." He added that the vessel



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

had a special mission and an elite crew. "It's isn't a regular vessel. It's a research vessel with a highly professional crew," Putin said, adding that seven of the dead had the rank of captain and two were awarded the nation's highest medal, the Hero of Russia. The fire occurred while the submersible was measuring sea depths in Russia's territorial waters, the ministry said, adding that the vessel also is used for studying the seabed. Russia's RBC online news outlet and the Novaya Gazeta newspaper identified it as the nuclear-powered AS-12 Losharik. The vessel is the most advanced Russian submersible, under a heavy veil of secrecy, and it is believed to have entered service in 2010. It is named after a So-

viet-era animated cartoon horse that is made up of small spheres. The name is apparently derives from the unique design of its interior hull, which is made of titanium spheres capable of withstanding high pressure at great depths. In 2012, the Losharik was involved in research intended to prove Russia's claim on the vast Arctic seabed. It collected samples from the depth of 2,500 meters (8,202 feet), according to official statements at the time. Regular submarines can typically dive to depths of up to 600 meters (2,000 feet). Some observers speculated the Losharik was even capable of going as deep as 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), but the claims couldn't be independently confirmed. Analysts suggested that

one of its possible missions could be disrupting communication cables on the seabed. The Losharik is carried under the hull of a mother submarine, the nuclear-powered Orenburg, and reportedly has a crew of 25, all of them officers. Russian news reports said that while the Losharik officially belongs to the Northern Fleet, it answers directly to the Defense Ministry's Department for Deep-Sea Research, reflecting the high sensitivity of its missions. The vessel has been surrounded by tight secrecy, but in 2015, it was accidentally caught on camera by a photographer from a motoring magazine doing a photo session on the White Sea coast. Igor Britanov, who commanded the Soviet K-219 nuclear submarine that suf-

fered an explosion in one of its missile tubes in 1986 that killed four of its crew, was quoted as saying by Severpost news outlet that Monday's blaze could have been caused by a short circuit or a flammable liquid getting into an air filter — the two most common causes of submarine fires. The Russian navy also uses simpler Priz-class and Bester-class deep water vehicles, which have a hull built of titanium and are capable of operating at a depth of 1,000 meters (3,281 feet). The small vehicles have a crew of two and are primarily intended for rescuing submariners in case of incidents. Such vessels are transported to the area of operation by a carrier vessel and can operate autonomously for up to 120 hours. The blaze marks the most serious Russian naval disaster since 2008, when 20 crewmembers died aboard the nuclear-powered Nerpa submarine in the Pacific Fleet after a firefighting system was accidentally initiated while it was undergoing sea trials. The accident involving the Kursk was the worst naval disaster in post-Soviet Russia. It occurred on Aug. 12, 2000, when the nuclear submarine exploded and sank during maneuvers in the Barents Sea, killing all 118 crewmembers. Putin, who was in his first year of his presidency, came under heavy criticism at the time when he failed to immediately interrupt his vacation to take charge of the disaster. □

World Bank unit implicated in Latin America graft scandal

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Maria Victoria Guarín was a key adviser on Colombia's biggest-ever transportation project: a 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) highway across mountainous terrain connecting the capital to busy Caribbean ports.

As an investment officer for a World Bank unit, it was her job to help the government set the terms for competitive bidding by contractors. It turns out she was also married to a senior executive of a company that won part of the very contract she helped to oversee.

That apparent conflict of interest has now dragged the bank into the edges of Latin America's biggest corruption scandal, as revealed in a little-noticed report issued last year by Colombia's anti-trust agency. The Grupo Aval conglomerate that employed Guarín's husband was partnered with Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction giant that has admitted to paying \$6.5 million in bribes to seal the deal — one of dozens of projects it now acknowledges winning through illegal payments.

The scandal upended the region's politics, leading to the jailing of dozens of senior politicians. But the role played by the World Bank in advising governments during the graft-ridden infrastructure boom of the past decade has received far less attention.

The private-sector arm of the World Bank, known as the International Finance Corporation, or IFC, is supposed to reduce poverty in the developing world by promoting private investment.

In an antitrust administrative complaint filed in September against Guarín and several others, the IFC is accused of failing to act on Guarín's potential conflict of interest for nearly two years, even as she allegedly tilted the bidding process for part of the \$2.6 billion contract in favor of her husband's employer.

Her husband, Diego Sola-



In this June 12, 2019, photo, a man walks past an entrance to the International Finance Corporation, a unit of the World Bank Group, in Washington.

Associated Press

no, who was also implicated, is now the chief financial officer of the New York Stock Exchange-traded company.

If the civil charges of taking advantage of a conflict of interest and improper contacts are sustained, Guarín faces a fine of up to \$1 million. Aval and its subsidiaries are on the hook for \$150 million.

"There's no doubt that the IFC conspired against free competition and transparency," Pablo Robledo, the former antitrust regulator who led the probe, said in an interview.

No one has been criminally charged, nor are there any indications that Guarín and Solano financially benefited. But a judge in April asked Colombia's attorney general to investigate the couple in handing down an 11-year sentence against José Melo, the CEO of the Aval unit in the consortium. During Melo's trial, a former deputy transportation minister jailed for accepting bribes testified that he was led to believe by Odebrecht's country manager that the company had already influenced the structuring of the bidding terms through Guarín.

In a 2016 plea agreement with the U.S. Justice Department, Odebrecht admitted to paying almost \$800 million in bribes to win contracts in 12 mostly Latin American countries.

At the time of the highway project, multinational companies were recovering from the global financial crisis and wary of investing in a country where an armed conflict with leftist rebels was still raging. The IFC's mission was to help the government attract as much interest as possible.

The IFC allegedly stood by as the husband's employer actively sought to take advantage of the conflict of interest, according to the antitrust agency's findings. Among other alleged improprieties was the organizing of a lunch between Guarín, her husband and Melo. The meeting was to take place in January 2009 — weeks before the bidding conditions were made public.

The contacts continued after the monthslong tender process officially got underway. That's when, according to the antitrust regulator, strict rules were in place to make sure communications with the government or its advisers were transparent and all bidders had equal access to information.

It was during this period that Guarín in an email urged the government to lower the collateral requirements for bidders. She argued that she was informed privately by an Odebrecht executive that the high amounts represented a "deal breaker."

A month later, the requirements were changed.

"The gold standard that should characterize the IFC's behavior in accordance with the World Bank's code of ethics clearly was not followed," said Camilo Enciso, a criminal lawyer and director of the International Anti-Corruption Institute, who reviewed the documents in the case at the AP's request. "The couple had a clear stake for their careers in the success or failure of this project."

Potential conflicts of interest "were everywhere," he added, citing the use of confidential information, influence peddling and favoritism, among others. "The IFC should have known better."

Guarín and Solano declined to comment. But in case filings both rejected the allegations of a conflict of interest. While Solano argued that he took steps to insulate himself from the bidding process, Guarín said the lowering of the financial guarantees benefited all bidders and reflected longstanding concerns across the sector.

Aval said it was cooperating with authorities but declined to comment further. The IFC also rejected the accusations, saying that Guarín was hired before it was known who the bidders would be and because of her expertise in the infra-

structure sector. She was member of an extensive team and did not have a managerial role.

The IFC also said it notified the government and put in place safeguards to prevent any conflict of interest once news reports in July 2009 indicated Aval would take part in the bidding process. That was more than 20 months after the IFC started advising the government.

"As it is the norm in these projects, IFC only served in an advisory capacity while the ultimate decisions regarding the project structure and the awarding of the concession contract rested exclusively with the Colombian government," the IFC said in a statement. The safeguards included preventing Guarín from playing any role in the bid evaluation process.

But in a September 2009 public hearing, Colombia's then-Transportation Minister expressed surprise upon hearing of Guarín's marriage to an Aval executive in an anonymously written complaint that described the relationship as a "perfectly camouflaged conflict of interest."

Richard Cabello, head of the IFC's advisory services in Latin America, said the organization had taken unspecified steps from the outset to mitigate any possible negative effects arising from Guarín's marriage, according to a transcript of the hearing.

He also vowed to answer the "innuendo" in writing — although there's no record the IFC did so publicly until almost eight years later, in response to a magazine column. In the 2017 statement, the IFC said it flagged the issue to the government a month before the hearing in coordination with an IFC department charged with managing potential conflicts.

Cabello, like the IFC, "downplayed what took place and provided impertinent excuses that didn't address the heart of the complaint," the antitrust agency said in the 168-page report issued in September. □

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ty for you as golfer to bump into one. A nesting site consists of a pair of burrows. Shocos are running out of areas where they can nest. They often end up using piles of construction sand on development areas which collapse due to human activities, killing the offspring. Aruba's burrowing owl is a critically endangered endemic subspecies and was declared a national symbol of Aruba in 2012. Another local beauty you are likely to meet is the Aruban goat. Welcome to nature, welcome to the greatness of golf.

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH —Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were Jerry & Pauline Levine residents of Hernando Florida. The couple has been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors since they have been coming to the island for 27 consecutive years. The couple stated that they love coming to the island for its friendly people, the great selection of restaurants and the safety they feel when they are here.

De Cuba together with representatives of La Cabana Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and handed over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □







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While you're waiting for the fireworks this Independence Day, enjoy live music by the Travel Sessions Band and Friends starting at 7pm. Bugaloe offers two daily Happy Hours that run from 5-6pm and again from 10-11pm. We have the best view of the firework shows from nearby hotels, so come early and grab a great seat to watch the action! With a 360-degree view, it won't be difficult to feel like you're in the best seat in the house.

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Divi Tamarijn

EAGLE BEACH —Recently, Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were Reginald Cummings from Florida and Alex Hernandez and Norma Torres from New Jersey. These lovely people has been honored as Distinguished Visitors since they have been coming to the island for 10 consecutive years. They stated that they love coming to the island for its friendly people, the great selection of restaurants and the safety the feel when they are here.

Heyliger together with representatives of Divi Tamarijn presented the certificate to the honorees, and handed over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 3

Celebration at Pinchos Grill & Bar

- Celebrate our 15th anniversary with us by enjoying a Special 3 Course Menu with your loved ones and set the mood for a great night ahead.
- From 7:00PM-10:00PM
- L.G. Smith Boulevard # 7, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Pinchos Grill & Bar



Thursday 4

Meet San Nicolas

- The Chocolate City has so much to offer. From history to art to delicious food. Enjoy an evening filled with great music, Good ambiance and Caribbean food.
- 6:30PM – 10:00PM
- San Nicolas Mainstreet
- Facebook: Meet San Nicolas

Friday 5

Aruba Hi-Winds 2019

- The 33rd edition of Aruba Hi-Winds 2019 starts Thursday July 4th.
- Expect spectacular battles on the water and a great atmosphere at the beach. Get your feet in the sand and enjoy the performances by the best bands and DJ's at the Fisherman's Huts.
- From 10:00AM-10:00PM
- Fisherman's Hut, Palm Beach
- Facebook: Aruba Hi-Winds



Saturday 6

Balance your life with Gemstones

- Do you want to learn how to use crystals in your day to day life?
- Incorporating crystals into one's life has shown to boost healing, sometimes in ways that can only be described as miraculous. In this workshop Brittany will guide you through the world of crystals and how to receive their energies.
- 12:00PM – 2:00PM
- Noord 18-A
- Facebook: Island Yoga

Sunday 7

Local Farmers Market @ Ostrich Farm

- Come and support our local farmers and artisans who will be offering everything grown or made in Aruba. Unique, delicious and family fun.
- From 10 AM – 2 PM
- Aruba Ostrich Farm
- Facebook: Aruba Ostrich Farm



Monday 8

Date night at BLT Steak

- Treat your significant other with an unforgettable three-course dinner. Enjoy an exquisite menu at our modern American Steakhouse with a bistro-inspired setting and a vibrant bar and lounge scene.
- From 8:00 PM-11:30 PM
- BLT Steak at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook: The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

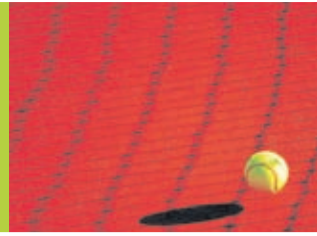


Tuesday 9

California Lighthouse Experience

- Climb to the top of the California Lighthouse to see the best views of the island!
- From 9 AM till 5 PM
- Hudishibana 2, Westpunt
- Facebook Aruba Walking Tours

SPORTS



Nate Lashley raises the winner's trophy after the final round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament, Sunday, June 30, 2019, in Detroit.
Associated Press

Unselfish act leads to unlikely victory on PGA Tour

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The text messages kept coming until David Berganio Jr. stopped counting, somewhere around 100, all wanting to celebrate his small role in an unlikely victory.

Berganio didn't win the Rocket Mortgage Classic. He didn't even play.

In fact, he didn't know anything about Nate Lashley, the last player to get in the tournament when Berganio chose to withdraw. It was only after Berganio returned home from Detroit that he heard Lashley opened with a 63 and that both were Arizona Wildcats, separated by a generation and a different variety of hard times.

"I texted my coach (Rick LaRose) and said, 'Who is this kid from Arizona?'" Berganio said. "He told me the whole story and I was like, 'Holy smokes.'"

The story is nothing short of remarkable.

Continued on Page 23

BUGS STOP HERE



Yelich helps rally 1st-place Crew with 30th HR

Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich tosses his bat after striking out with the bases loaded against the Pittsburgh Pirates during the sixth inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 30, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press
Page 20

No. 1 Ash Barty wins on No. 1 Court at Wimbledon

By CHRIS LEHOURITES

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Ash Barty played her first match as the No. 1 player in the world on No. 1 Court at Wimbledon, and she won.

The top-seeded Australian, who followed her victory at the French Open by winning a grass-court warm-up tournament in Birmingham, advanced to the second round at the All England Club on Tuesday by winning her 13th straight match. She beat Zheng Saisai 6-4, 6-2.

"It feels incredible," Barty said about playing at Wimbledon as the top-ranked woman. "It's a little bit of a bizarre feeling, to be honest. But I just try and go about my business the exact same way."

"This hallowed turf that we do get to play on is sacred, it's beautiful. And you have to enjoy every minute."

Defending champion Angelique Kerber also advanced, beating Tatjana Maria 6-4, 6-3 on Centre Court.

"I was really nervous, to be honest, because of course to (go) out there as the defending champion, it was really special," Kerber said. "Walking on the Centre Court, playing there again, I mean, a lot of emotions, a lot of memories."

Both Barty and Kerber are in the same quarter of the women's draw, which means they could meet in the quarterfinals. Seven-time champion Serena Williams is also in that same quarter, and she also won, beating Giulia Gatto-Monticone of Italy 6-2, 7-5.

Garbine Muguruza, the 2017 Wimbledon champion who was also placed in that same tough quarter of the draw, didn't make it through her first match. And neither did Maria Sharapova, the champion in 2004. Muguruza, seeded 26th, lost to Brazilian qualifier Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-4, 6-4. Sharapova, who served for the match while leading 5-3 in the second, retired from her match with a left wrist injury while trailing Pauline Parmentier of France 4-6, 7-6 (4), 5-0.

The combative and combustible Nick Kyrgios advanced to the second round despite winning only five points in the fourth set. The unseeded Australian beat Jordan Thompson 7-6 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (10), 0-6, 6-1.

Kyrgios took a medical timeout after the second set and a trainer came on court to examine his left side. He then won the third set in a tiebreaker — a set which took 1 hour, 16 minutes to complete.

The fourth set, however, lasted only 18 minutes as Thompson won 24 points while Kyrgios took only five. "The medical timeout was to loosen up my hamstring a little bit. It was a physical match." Kyrgios said. "Especially on the grass, it was a little bit slower this year."

There were a lot more rallies."

Kyrgios will face two-time champion Rafael Nadal in the next round. The Spaniard beat Yuichi Sugita of Japan 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Eight-time champion Roger Federer lost the opening set of his opening match on Centre Court, but he quickly recovered and beat Lloyd Harris of South Africa 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Federer, who is seeded second at the All England Club, reached the second round at Wimbledon for the 17th consecutive year. However, fifth-seeded Dominic Thiem, who lost to Nadal in the French Open final, was eliminated after losing to Sam Querrey 6-7 (4), 7-6 (1), 6-3, 6-0.

Thiem follows a pair of oth-



Australia's Ashleigh Barty reacts after beating China's Saisai Zheng in their Women's singles match during day two of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

er top seeds out of the tournament in the first round. No. 6 Alexander Zverev and No. 7 Stefanos Tsitsipas lost on Monday.

"I was mentally prepared for this kind of game," said

Thiem, who has had much more success on the slower clay surface. "Just broke down a little bit after he converted his first break chance, and that was it basically." □

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Yelich hits 30th homer, Brewers rally past Reds 8-6

By The Associated Press
CINCINNATI (AP) — Christian Yelich singled with the bases loaded and hit his major league-leading 30th homer Monday night, helping the Milwaukee Brewers rally for their sixth straight victory at Great American Ball Park, 8-6 over the Cincinnati Reds.

Milwaukee sent 10 batters to the plate for five runs in the seventh inning, with Yelich contributing an RBI single. The reigning National League MVP hit a two-run homer in the ninth that made him the first Brewer with 30 before the All-Star break.

The Brewers have won 11 of 15 overall against their NL Central rival. This time, they overcame a pair of two-run homers by Eugenio Suarez, who has three in the last two games.

Lorenzo Cain and Keston Hiura added homers for the Brewers. Jesse Winker and Eugenio went deep for the Reds.

Alex Claudio (2-2) retired the three batters he faced for the win. Jeremy Jeffress allowed a run in the ninth while getting his first save.

PIRATES 18, CUBS 5

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Bell hit three home runs to boost his season total to 25 and Pittsburgh routed Chicago.

Bell hit a three-run shot off rookie Adalberto Alzola (1-1) in the first, a two-run drive



Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich (22) follows through on an RBI single off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher David Hernandez during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 1, 2019, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

off Alzola in the second and finished off a four-hit, seven-RBI night by taking new Chicago closer Craig Kimbrel deep in the eighth. Adam Frazier finished 5 for 6 and tied a major league record with four doubles. Colin Moran had a career-high five hits for the Pirates. Jung Ho Kang hit his seventh home run of the season off Chicago infielder Daniel Descalso, who made a cameo on the mound in the seventh with the game well out of hand. Jose Osuna hit a solo home

run off Kimbrel, who came on to get some work after making his debut with the Cubs last week.

Bell became the 20th Pirates player to hit three home runs in a game and the first left-handed batter to do it since Hall of Famer Willie Stargell in 1971. Frazier's four doubles matched a mark shared by many players — Matt Carpenter of St. Louis was the last to do it on Aug. 26, 2018.

Javier Báez hit his 21st home run for Chicago. Kris Bryant and David Bote had

two hits each, but the Cubs couldn't keep pace while dropping their third straight. Trevor Williams (3-2) took advantage of the outburst to pick up his first victory since May 10.

RAYS 6, ORIOLES 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Kevin Kiermaier's three-run home run lifted Tampa Bay to a win over Baltimore in a game in which two-way player Brandon McKay went 0 for 4 in his major league debut as a hitter for the Rays.

Kiermaier's 10th homer

came off Brandon Kline (1-4) in the sixth inning after a walk and a single by Avisail Garcia.

McKay, who gave up one hit in six scoreless innings Saturday night in his major league pitching debut against the Texas Rangers, grounded out four times and was picked off second base on a throw from catcher Pedro Severino.

Adam Kolarek (3-2) got the win and Jose Alvarado pitched the ninth for his first save since May 26.

Tom Eshelman made his major league pitching debut for the Orioles, giving up two runs on six hits in five innings without recording a strikeout.

Renato Nunez had two hits for Baltimore.

The crowd of 20,441 included about 10,000 fans who purchased \$2 tickets.

BLUE JAYS 11, ROYALS 4

TORONTO (AP) — Freddy Galvis hit a pair of solo home runs, rookie Cavan Biggio had four RBIs and Toronto beat Kansas City.

Randal Grichuk had four hits and four RBIs and Teoscar Hernández added a solo home run as the Blue Jays won for the 15th time in 19 regular-season home meetings with the Royals.

Wearing red caps and jerseys in honor of Canada Day, the Blue Jays scored in each of the first four innings and finished with a season-high 18 hits. □

Eovaldi to pitch in relief when he rejoins Red Sox

TORONTO (AP) — Red Sox right-hander Nathan Eovaldi will pitch out of the bullpen when he returns from injury, president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said before Tuesday's game at Toronto.

"It strengthens our bullpen, it gives us some more depth out there," Dombrowski said.

Red Sox relievers allowed 21 runs over 12 1/3 innings in back-to-back losses to the New York Yankees in London last weekend. Boston hopes Eovaldi can re-

turn after the All-Star break. The club entered play Tuesday at 44-40, 11 games behind New York in the AL East and two games out of a wild-card spot. Dombrowski acknowledged "urgency" behind the decision to move Eovaldi to the bullpen.

Eovaldi has no record and a 6.00 ERA in four starts this season after signing a four-year, \$68 million contract to remain with the Red Sox last December. He went on the injured list in late April because of a sore elbow and has yet to begin

a minor league rehab assignment. Eovaldi recently resumed throwing off the mound.

Dombrowski said Eovaldi expressed a preference for starting during contract talks last offseason, choosing Boston over other teams who wanted him to pitch in relief. He said Eovaldi now has a "different mindset" about working out of the bullpen.

"He's changed that because he really wants to get back as quickly as he can," Dombrowski said.

Boston intends to use Eo-

valdi as a reliever for the remainder of the season but views him as a starter next year, Dombrowski added. Eovaldi has had two Tommy John surgeries, one in high school and a second in 2016. He missed the 2017 season while recovering. Eovaldi has made eight regular season relief appearances in his eight-year career and pitched out of the bullpen four times in last year's postseason, giving up the winning home run at the end of a six-inning stint in Boston's 18-inning loss in Game 3. That

was the only run Eovaldi allowed in 9 1/3 innings.

Also Tuesday, Dombrowski said outfielder Steve Pearce will miss at least a month after injuring his knee in a fall during a rehab game at Triple-A Pawtucket. Pearce has been out since June 1 because of a strained lower back.

"He's not going to need surgery, he's going to need rehab," Dombrowski said, "but it will keep him out for an extended period."

Pearce is batting .180 with one homer and nine RBI in 29 games. □



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Rangers, Panthers, Predators winners early in free agency

By LARRY LAGE
AP Hockey Writer

The New York Rangers, Florida Panthers and Nashville Predators came out ahead on Day 1 of NHL free agency, signing the best players available to seven-year contracts.

If Artemi Panarin, Sergei Bobrovsky or Matt Duchene can help their new team win the Stanley Cup, it will go against a trend.

Teams that have made the biggest splash by signing stars from other teams in recent summers haven't had those major moves lead to winning the Stanley Cup.

"The reality is, you want to get those guys on July 1, you've got to give them terms and you've got to give them a lot of money," Detroit Red Wings general manager Steve Yzerman said. "I don't know if it's the right way to go or the wrong way. We've all done it."

"You can look back on the history of July 1 signings and I guess judge for yourself whether you think they're good or bad."

The Toronto Maple Leafs were hailed a year ago for signing superstar John Tavares and they ended up losing in the first round of the playoffs for the third straight year. Edmonton and Buffalo, respectively, signed Milan Lucic and Kyle Okposo to seven-year contracts in 2016 and both franchises are still floundering. "You have to try to sign free agents when the time is right in terms of the cap and cycle of the team," Oilers general manager Ken Holland said. "If you think you're one or two pieces away, you have to take a chance."

The Minnesota Wild took a big chance in 2012, signing Zach Parise and Ryan Suter to 13-year contracts. The duo has not been able to help the franchise get past the second round.

It is possible, though, for a team to invest a lot in a player from another team in free agency and have it pay off with a title. The Washington Capitals gave Matt Niskanen a seven-year, \$40.25 million contract in 2014 and the defenseman helped them hoist the Cup four years later.

A look at the teams that spent the most so far in 2019 to sign unrestricted free agents — three from Columbus — away from other teams:

NEW YORK RANGERS

Desperate for a shot of talent and energy, New York gave the 27-year-old Panarin a contract that trails only Edmonton's Connor McDavid in money per season. The dynamic forward signed a seven-year, \$81.5 million contract with a franchise that has missed the playoffs in consecutive years for the first time in the salary cap era. The Russian had a career-high 87 points last season in Columbus. He has scored at least 27 goals in each of his four NHL seasons, including his first two years with the Chicago Blackhawks.

FLORIDA PANTHERS

The franchise has missed the playoffs three straight years and 16 times in 18 seasons, creating a sense of urgency to win that can lead to lavish spending in free agency. Bobrovsky took advantage, signing a seven-year, \$70 million contract. The two-time Vezina Trophy winner replaces re-

tired goaltender Roberto Luongo and makes Florida tough to beat each game he starts. He led the league with nine shutouts and his 37 victories with the Blue Jackets ranked second in the NHL. The Russian has given up fewer than 2 ½ goals per game over nine seasons.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

Nashville reached the 2017 Stanley Cup Final and has taken a step back since, losing in the first round this year after a second-round exit. The Predators needed to give their power play a boost even though it cost them \$56 million over seven years to sign Matt Duchene



This Feb. 7, 2019, file photo shows Columbus Blue Jackets left wing Artemi Panarin (9) in the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Arizona Coyotes in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

away from the Blue Jackets. They were able to sign the 28-year-old Canadian center after freeing up cap space by trading All-Star

defenseman P.K. Subban to New Jersey. Duchene had 31 goals and 39 assists last season with the Ottawa Senators and Columbus. □

Cavendish out of Tour, still stuck on 30 stage wins

PARIS (AP) — Mark Cavendish won't get a chance this month to overhaul Eddy Merckx's record of 34 stage victories at the Tour de France.

The 34-year-old British sprinter with 30 stage victories, second only to Merckx, wasn't included on Tuesday on the eight-rider squad for the race by his team, Dimension Data.

Cavendish hasn't missed a Tour since his first in 2007. But he also hasn't won a stage since he took four in 2016 to overhaul Bernard Hinault on the list of stage winners. Hinault won 28.

Cavendish, the dominant sprinter of his generation, has been struggling to rediscover his speed since he was diagnosed in 2017 with the Epstein-Barr virus, which can cause fatigue and in-



In this July 4, 2017 file photo, Britain's Mark Cavendish crosses the finish line after he crashed during the sprint of the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 207.5 kilometers (129 miles) with start in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, and finish in Vittel, France.

Associated Press

flammation.

Without Cavendish, the headliners for Dimension Data at the Tour that starts on Saturday will be Roman

Kreuziger, who has four top-10 finishes at the Tour, and Edvald Boasson Hagen, who has three stage wins. □

Morgan scores and Naeher saves in 2-1 victory over England

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

LYON, France (AP) — With Alex Morgan's cheeky tea-sipping celebration and a postgame mobbing of goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, the United States has moved a step closer to successfully defending its latest Women's World Cup title. Morgan scored the go-ahead goal and Naeher preserved the 2-1 semifinal victory over England by smothering a late penalty kick Tuesday night.

The top-ranked United States will now face the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between the Netherlands and Sweden in the Americans' third straight appearance in the World Cup title match.

Christen Press — who started with Megan Rapinoe out with a hamstring injury — put the United States up early but Ellen White's goal tied it before 20 minutes had passed. Morgan's sixth goal of the tournament came before the break, and on her 30th birthday. She hadn't had a goal since she scored five in the team's 13-0 rout of Thailand to open the tournament. After her goal, Morgan pantomimed a sip of tea on the field.

"I feel like this team just has had so much thrown at us, and I felt that we didn't take the easy route to the final this tournament, and



United States goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher saves a penalty shot taken by England's Steph Houghton during the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match between England and the United States, at the Stade de Lyon, outside Lyon, France, Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Associated Press

that's the tea," she said. White's goal was also her sixth but Morgan has the edge for the tournament's Golden Boot with three assists. White appeared to score her seventh in the 69th minute but video review determined she was offside — and the Americans in the crowd of 53,512 at Stade de Lyon roared. Another video review went against the United States late in the game when it determined Becky Sauerbrunn had fouled White in the penalty area. England captain Steph Houghton's

penalty shot was stopped by a diving Naeher in the 84th minute. It was the first penalty kick saved by a U.S. goalkeeper in regular time at the World Cup. At the final whistle, the team mobbed Naeher in front of the goal in celebration. Rapinoe gave her a bear hug. The mild-mannered goalkeeper was asked afterward if it was the biggest save of her life. "Probably up there, yeah," she said smiling. "It's a special team and everybody fought hard

tonight for all 90 minutes. Players on the field, players on the bench, ready to come in and make differences," Naeher said. "Obviously Christen coming in and starting tonight and scoring a great goal was huge for us. And I think it's just a testament to the team." The Americans have been to the semifinals of all eight World Cups, and they've won the trophy three times, more than any nation. The U.S. team's lone loss in a World Cup title match came to Japan in 2011.

Third-ranked England went through to the semifinals in 2015 but fell to Japan before beating Germany in the third-place match for the Lionesses' best finish in the tournament.

"No words that I can say tonight will make them feel any better," said England coach Phil Neville.

England will play in the third-place match on Saturday in Nice against the loser of the other semifinal. Moments after Tuesday's loss, Neville was already looking ahead — even to next year.

"My first thought was, 'How do we win on Saturday,' and my second thought was, 'How do we win the Olympics?'" he said.

The United States has won 11 straight World Cup matches and is undefeated in its last 16. With the quarterfinal victory in France, the Americans tied Norway's record winning streak set over the 1995 and 1999 tournaments.

The Americans have exuded confidence since arriving in France. After pouncing on Thailand 13-0 in the opener and celebrating each goal in the rout, they beat nemesis Sweden, the team that ousted the United States in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Olympics. And Rapinoe struck a victorious pose in a 2-1 quarterfinal victory over France on Friday night in Paris. □

AP Source: Simmons, 76ers negotiating a 5-year extension

By TIM REYNOLDS

Ben Simmons is apparently about to become the next recipient of a big commitment from the Philadelphia 76ers.

The All-Star point guard and the 76ers are negotiating a \$170 million, five-year extension, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because neither the team nor Simmons revealed any details publicly. ESPN first reported the negotiations between Simmons and the 76ers. The deal will begin in the 2020-

21 season. Simmons will make about \$8.1 million this season, the last of his four-year rookie deal. Assuming the sides agree on what will be a full max, Simmons' salary for the following season would jump to about \$29.3 million and eventually rise to nearly \$39 million in 2024-25. It's already been an offseason of big financial commitments for Philadelphia, which will sign Tobias Harris to a \$180 million, five-year deal and add Al Horford on a four-year deal that could reach \$109 million. Those deals cannot be finalized until the league's moratorium ends Saturday

at noon Eastern. Simmons was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2016 draft and wound up making his NBA debut in the 2017-18 season, earning Rookie of the Year honors. He was an All-Star for the first time last season, and has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists in his two on-court seasons. Simmons' extension, when finalized, will push the amount of money committed to point guards this offseason — either via free agency or extensions — past the \$1.2 billion mark. Among the biggest winners of that sweepstakes: Port-

land's Damian Lillard got a \$196 million extension, Denver's Jamal Murray got one for \$170 million and Simmons is on his way to getting the same. Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He's had 22 triple-doubles in the last two seasons, tied for third-most in the league with Denver's Nikola Jokic and trailing only Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (59) and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (26). Simmons also has 80 double-doubles over the last two seasons. Also Tuesday, the 76ers

agreed with Shake Milton on a four-year contract and veteran James Ennis on a two-year deal. Those moves were confirmed by a person familiar with both sets of negotiations and who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because they also cannot yet be finalized. Milton appeared in 20 games and averaged 4.4 points for the 76ers last season. Ennis was a late-season acquisition by Philadelphia, his sixth franchise, and averaged 5.3 points in 18 regular-season appearances. The second year of Ennis' deal will be at his option, the person said. □

XFL's plans for upcoming season starting to take shape

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Oliver Luck's first year as the XFL's commissioner has mostly been confined to the office and getting the league's framework set up. The next couple months are what Luck refers to as the fun part of preparing for next year's return.

"We're still a long way from a football game but we are starting to see more of what we are trying to do," Luck said.

The league — which will begin play the week after Super Bowl 54 — is in the middle of conducting "Summer Showcases" in the eight cities where it will have teams. The showcases are similar to pro days on college campuses and the NFL Scouting Combine as coaches get to work with

prospects.

Los Angeles, New York, Washington, Seattle, Houston and Dallas featured 100 players, who were invited by the league, but last weekend's showcase in Tampa had 150. Luck said the league will begin signing players later this month after the final showcase is held in St. Louis July 13.

Some of the prospects played in the Alliance of American Football, which lasted only eight weeks, but some former NFL players have also participated, including wide receivers Hakeem Nicks and Robert Meacham, quarterbacks Landry Jones and Ryan Mallett and tight end Fred Davis. "You get a lot of reps. For me, there is a chance to put film out there and show I can still play," said Davis, who last played in the NFL



In this Feb. 25, 2019, file photo, XFL Football Commissioner Oliver Luck talks to reporters before introducing former NFL football quarterback Jim Zorn as the head coach for Seattle's XFL football team, in Seattle.

in 2013. "It's good just to know you still have an opportunity to play if you still have some juice left."

Luck is optimistic that the quality of players, especially at quarterback, will be better than the AAF. Luck points to the league being able to offer more at skill

positions.

"We have some guys who left the NFL on terms that were not their own but still have 2-4 years left of playing. It gives me hope that we can play solid football," he said.

Some players were not invited to showcases be-

cause Luck said they already had a large amount of film. Many have wondered if 2012 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel is on the league's radar, but Luck said that remains to be seen. Manziel played two games in the AAF before the league folded. □

PGA TOUR

Continued from Page 18

Lashley was a junior at Arizona in 2004 when his parents and girlfriend died in a plane crash on their way home to Nebraska after watching him play in an NCAA regional. The mental anguish was more than he realized. Lashley struggled upon turning pro, dabbled in real estate during a break from golf and then began the slow climb back through five tours over the next decade until reaching the PGA Tour as a 34-year-old rookie in the fall of 2017. Lashley wasn't in the field at Detroit. He didn't make it through Monday qualifying but stuck around as an alternate in case his luck changed.

That's where Berganio enters the picture.

Berganio has been on a medical extension since 2004 because of a bulging disk in his back that took 11 years to be diagnosed as a problem in his hip. He has played only 28 times in the last 15 years on the PGA Tour.

He was certain the new PGA Tour event in Detroit

would be No. 29 when he arrived Monday morning. One problem.

His golf clubs never made the connection in Dallas and Berganio didn't get them until Tuesday night. The course is occupied all day Wednesday with the pro-am.

"I wasn't able to play a practice round," Berganio said. "A friend of mine always says, 'Fail to prepare, prepare to fail.' I'm 50. I know some kid behind me was waiting to get in, and I didn't want to take up a spot. And then this happened. He's a former Wildcat, as well. The situation couldn't have been better." Lashley followed that 63 with a 67, and then he blew open the tournament with another 63 to build a six-shot lead. He started the final round with two birdies in three holes and was on his way to a six-shot victory. His sister, Brooke, flew in from Phoenix, along with a host of friends and family from Arizona and Nebraska, to share an emotional moment. The victory gives Lashley a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour, along

with a spot in the British Open, Masters and PGA Championship.

"I'm just thankful I got in the tournament," Lashley said. Berganio never felt so happy for not being able to play, but only to a point. The text messages kept pouring in Sunday night and into Monday, all filled with amazement that a withdrawal could change someone's life.

"I didn't change his life," Berganio said. "I didn't hit a shot."

All he did was unwittingly provide an opportunity. It just happened to fall to Lashley, who took it from there.

Berganio knows all about opportunity.

He was born to a 15-year-old mother on welfare and raised in a housing project in Pacoima, California. A priest from the Guardian Angel Catholic Church gave him a starter set of Chi Chi Rodriguez clubs when Berganio was 12 to keep him off the streets.

"He gave me an opportunity to hit all the golf balls I wanted," Berganio said. "He never hit a shot for me."



In this July 1, 2001, file photo, David Berganio, Jr. of Granada Hills, Calif., drives off the sixth tee during the final round of the Greater Hartford Open golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn.

Associated Press

Berganio took it from there. He was a two-time winner of the U.S. Amateur Public Links and played on the winning Walker Cup in 1993, partnering with Todd Demsey to win a foursomes match against a team that included Padraig Harrington.

In three full years on the PGA Tour before injuries shut him down, Berganio had two good chances to win. He played in the final group of the Byron Nelson Classic in 1997 with the

eventual winner, 21-year-old Masters champion Tiger Woods. Five years later, he lost in a playoff at the Bob Hope Classic to Phil Mickelson.

"I wasn't trying to beat No. 50 in the world or No. 150 in the world," he said with a laugh. "It was either No. 1 or 2."

Berganio doesn't spend a lot of time looking back at what could have been, because his past starts long before he even got on tour. "I'm not angry," he says. □

APNewsBreak: Data scientist drops Facebook defamation suit



Aleksandr Kogan poses for a portrait Tuesday, July 2, 2018, in Buffalo N.Y.

Associated Press

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

Aleksandr Kogan, the data scientist at the center of Facebook's Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal, said he is dropping a defamation lawsuit against the social network rather than engage in an expensive, drawn-out legal battle.

Kogan, 33, sued the social giant in March, claiming it scapegoated him to deflect attention from its own misdeeds, thwarting his academic career in the process. The suit sought unspecified monetary damages and a retraction and correction of what Kogan said were "false and defamatory statements."

"We thought there was a one percent chance they would do the right thing," Kogan told The Associated Press. Facebook is "brilliant and ruthless," he added.

"And if you get in their way they will destroy you."

A Facebook spokesperson said the company had "no comment to share concerning this development." The former Cambridge University psychology professor created an online personality test app in 2014 that vacuumed up the personal data of as many as 87 million Facebook users. The vast majority of those were unwitting online friends of the roughly 200,000 people Kogan says were paid about \$4 to participate in his "ThisIsYourDigital Life" quiz.

Cambridge Analytica, a political data-mining firm founded by conservative power brokers including billionaire Robert Mercer and former White House aide Steve Bannon, paid Kogan \$800,000 to conduct his research and to pro-

vide the firm with a copy of the data. The project's aim was to create voter profiles based on Facebook users' online behavior to help in tailored political-ad targeting, according to Christopher Wylie, a former data scientist at the firm.

In March 2018, when the scandal broke, Facebook executives charged that Kogan had lied to them about how the data he harvested would be used. Facebook deputy general counsel Paul Grewal claimed at the time in a statement to The New York Times that Kogan perpetrated "a scam — and a fraud." CEO Mark Zuckerberg accused Kogan of violating Facebook rules "to gather a bunch of information, sell it or share it in some sketchy way."

Kogan said such accusations were "either unfair

or untrue." Facebook shut down Kogan's app in late 2015 after it was exposed in press accounts and he said he then destroyed his copy of the rogue data at its request. But it didn't ban him from the social media platform until the Cambridge Analytica scandal broke last year.

Evidence presented to a U.K. parliamentary committee indicated that Cambridge Analytica had not deleted the Kogan-acquired dataset on 30 million Facebook users by February 2016. Britain's Information Commissioner's Office said Cambridge Analytica used some of that data "to target voters during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign process." Data collected included age, gender, posts, email addresses and pages users "liked," depending on their privacy

setting, the regulator said.

Cambridge Analytica worked for the eventual 2016 GOP presidential nominee, Donald Trump. Had Trump not won the election, "my life (would be) very different," Kogan said.

Kogan and other developers say Facebook allowed such wholesale gathering of friend data at the time, although access was later throttled back for all but select partners.

"They created these great tools for developers to collect the data and made it very easy. This is not a hack. This was 'Here's the door. It's open. We're giving away the groceries. Please collect them,'" Kogan told CBS News' 60 Minutes last year.

Other developers tell similar tales of Facebook's lax attitude toward user data and their own naive complicity. If true, Facebook would have been in direct violation of a 2011 consent order with the Federal Trade Commission for allowing third-party apps like Kogan's to collect data on users without their knowledge or consent.

Kogan's university appointment ended in September, his company has gone bust and he has been doing freelance programming, he said. "I think it would be damn near impossible to get an academic job," Kogan said by phone from Buffalo, New York, where he currently lives with his wife.

Facebook's privacy transgressions are also the subject of investigations in Europe and by a number of U.S. state attorneys general. Canada has sued the company over its alleged failure to protect user data, as has the attorney general of the District of Columbia. As well, A federal judge in northern California last month allowed a class action lawsuit over Facebook's privacy transgressions to move forward.

Kogan told the AP he now regrets invading so many people's privacy. "In hindsight it was clearly a really bad idea to do that project." □

How I ditched debt: 'It made our marriage so strong'

By LAURA MCMULLER
NerdWallet

Associated Press

Ray Robertson's debt-payoff journey involves two fateful conversations across the ocean from where he grew up.

The first was a blind date with his future wife, Bailey. Ray had moved from Canterbury, England, to the Nashville, Tennessee, area for a soccer scholarship at Martin Methodist College and met Bailey soon after graduating in 2012. The second meeting was about a year later, Thanksgiving 2013, when Ray asked Bailey's father for his marriage blessing.

He got the blessing — with a stipulation. Bailey's father wanted the couple to enroll in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The two signed up for the video-based money course in 2014 and found it to be "life-changing," Ray says. They began learning how to budget, hold each other accountable and set goals, including paying off about \$33,000 in combined debts.

The Robertsons began tackling these debts in August 2014, after moving to Houston, where Ray made about \$55,000 as project manager for a hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Bailey's substitute teaching, paired with a handful of tutoring sessions and Ray's occasional refereeing, added roughly \$5,000 in annual income, although that figure fluctuated. Each month, the couple threw about \$1,500 toward their debt and paid extra after receiving their tax refunds and selling Ray's car and other items.

This aggressive payoff strategy, along with a lean lifestyle, tight partnership and plenty of planning, enabled the Robertsons to eliminate their consumer debt in 18 months. Now Ray, 31, and Bailey, 29, are back in Nashville, where they own a home and raise their 15-month-old son, Calum.

Bailey and Ray, who is now a personal finance coach in addition to working as a



In this undated image provided by NerdWallet, Ray Robertson and his wife Bailey pose for a photo. Associated Press

product manager, recently connected with NerdWallet to share their story, which may inspire your own journey in paying off debt.

WHAT WAS YOUR TOTAL DEBT WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR REPAYMENT JOURNEY, AND WHAT IS IT NOW?

Ray: We had a little over \$33,000 in consumer debt: About \$18,000 for Bailey's student loans, nearly \$14,000 for a car loan, about \$800 for a bank loan balance, and a little over \$400 for an immigration lawyer.

We completely paid off this debt between August 2014 and February 2016. Now, our only liability is a mortgage, which has a current balance of \$299,000. Our goal is to pay that off by 2030.

WHAT WAS YOUR DEBT-PAYOFF STRATEGY?

Ray: We utilized the debt snowball — we listed our debts from smallest to largest in value, and then worked through them. So for us, that meant tackling the balance for the immigration lawyer, then the personal loan, followed by the auto loan and finally student loans. The momentum of paying off these debts kept us motivated.

DID YOU USE ANY TOOLS TO HELP YOU TRACK YOUR PAYMENTS?

Ray: When we first started our journey, I used an Excel spreadsheet with tabs

for income, expenses and debts. Then Dave Ramsey dropped his app called EveryDollar, which did everything my spreadsheet did. So I was an early adopter of that and still use it to this day.

WHAT WAS YOUR LIFESTYLE LIKE WHILE YOU TACKLED YOUR DEBTS?

Ray: We truly lived like no one else. While our friends were going out to dinner, we were cooking; when they were at happy hour, we were working our second jobs; when they were buying new cars, we were budgeting every dollar to throw as much at debt as possible.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS FOR LIVING THIS WAY?

Bailey: No regrets. We are a very goal oriented couple, and we try to think about where we want to be in five years. Knowing that we missed out on a few things early on doesn't compare to our financial freedom right now.

Ray: I have no regrets now, because it's a lot nicer on the other side. I think back to then, and I definitely could have been a bit over the top. I was so into it — I just wanted to be done with debt. But, we wouldn't be where we are right now without making those sacrifices. It really set us up for future success, and it made us grow up a lot quicker.

WHAT'S LIFE LIKE NOW 'ON THE OTHER SIDE'?

Ray: It's so good. It's no longer: "We have to pay this." Now, it's: "What should we allocate to?" Should we allocate more to investing, paying off our house, saving for a car? Now we have only have choices, whereas we didn't have any choices before.

Bailey: Honestly, it feels natural. Knowing that we've overcome our biggest hurdle gives me so much confidence in our future financial goals. Also, it's nice to make a Target run every now and then and not feel

guilt of Ray's piercing eyes!

HOW DID YOU TWO DISCUSS MONEY AND HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE?

Ray: We'd sit down every single week to look at our budget and calendar. We'd make sure we were both on the same page in terms of what we're spending, and what money is coming in and going out. That communication, especially in the beginning of a marriage, is so key. Paying off this debt together made our marriage so strong.

And the best thing about a budget is that it's kind of an informal contract between the two. If one of you buys something random, you've pretty much broken the trust of your partner.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG COUPLES WORKING TOGETHER TO PAY OFF DEBT?

Bailey: Have open, in-depth conversations about your goals and dreams. This will get you on the same page and make you work together without question. Ray and I have learned to be a good balance for what each other needs. I can let him know when he is throwing too much of our money into our future instead of now, and Ray lets me know vice versa.

Ray: Include your spouse, and listen to their point of view, and just be really honest about what each person's goals are. And remember that you're in a partnership. □



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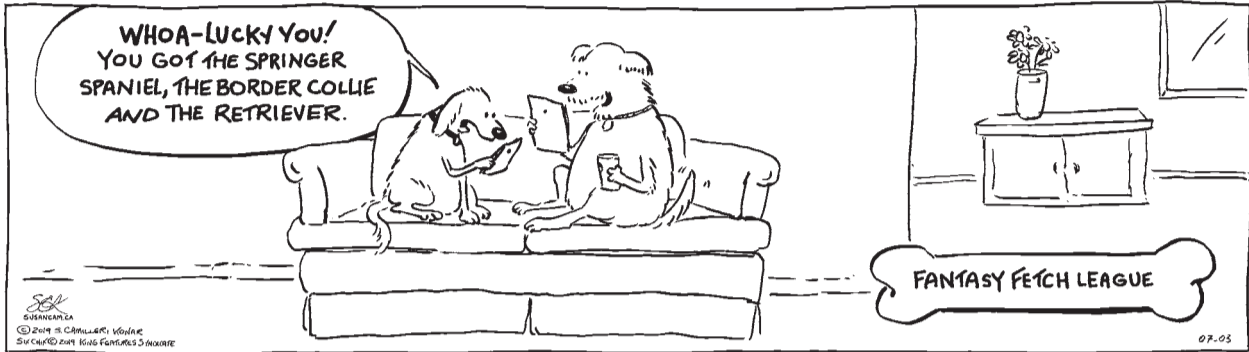
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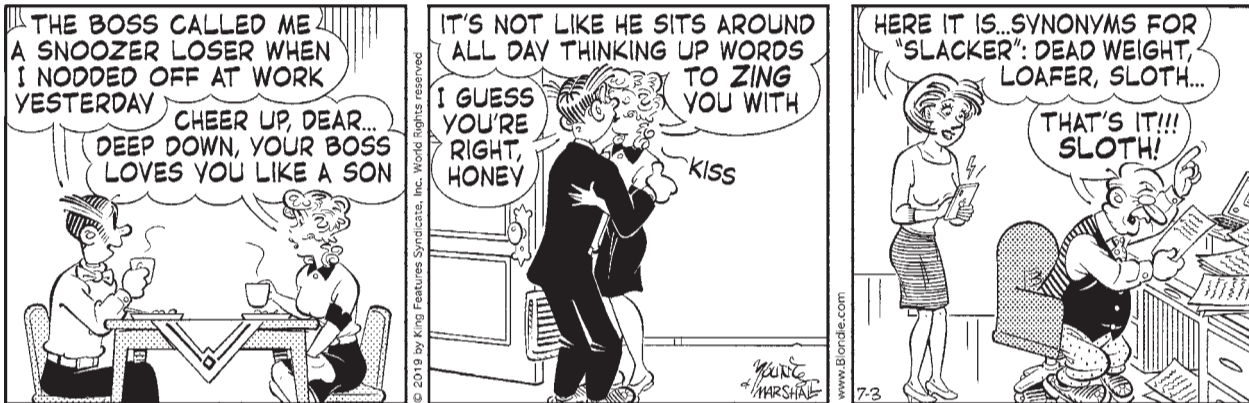
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6 Chix



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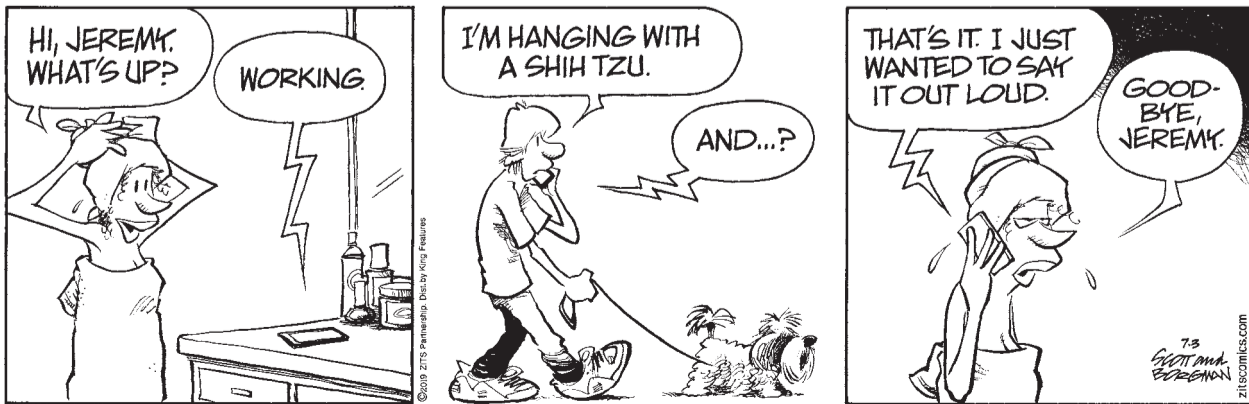
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	5	3			
		7				3		
		8				9		
	9	2	5	3	4	8	7	
	4						5	
	8			2			9	
	5			9			6	
	6						1	
		9	8	6	1	5		

Difficulty Level ★★

7/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

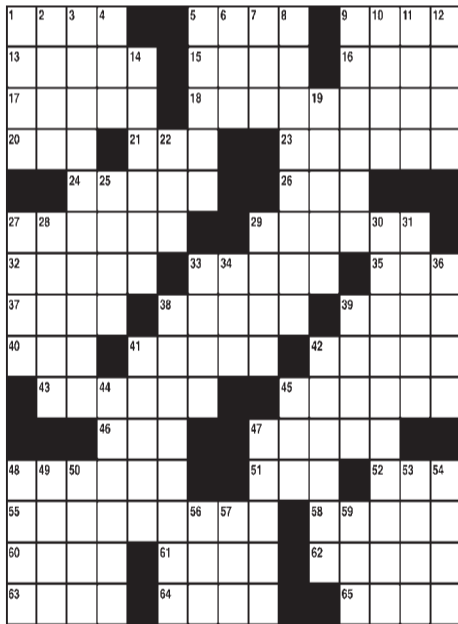
4	3	8	6	9	7	5	1	2
9	2	5	1	4	3	6	8	7
6	1	7	2	8	5	9	4	3
7	4	6	3	1	2	8	9	5
3	5	9	8	7	6	4	2	1
2	8	1	9	5	4	3	7	6
5	7	3	4	2	8	1	6	9
1	6	4	7	3	9	2	5	8
8	9	2	5	6	1	7	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Scrap
5 Highlander
9 Oaf
13 oneself;
worked steadily
15 Couple
16 Sharpen
17 Male relative
18 Child's spending money
20 Shameful grade
21 Groupie
23 "Away in a _"
24 Gets closer to
26 Large
27 Lay into
29 JFK's father
32 Line of travel
33 _ of view;
opinion
35 Male animal
37 It was, to a poet
38 Ostrich feather
39 Greek cheese
40 "Ready, __, go!"
41 Wed.'s follower
42 Bank vaults
43 Winger &
Messing
45 Least tainted
46 Galloped
47 TV's " _ Pyle"
48 Horrified
51 Curved edge
52 Tiny folklore fellow
55 Locomotive's nickname, when trains were new
58 Bert's buddy
60 Actor Jack _
61 Boxer Tyson
62 Quackers
63 Convince
64 Twirl
65 Encounter

DOWN

- 1 Potato
2 Rectangular piece of glass
3 Emphasize
4 _ Aviv
5 Stretches across



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/3/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

PER	ARBOR	NEWT
AXIS	BOONE	ACHY
NICE	SOLOS	SHIN
THEREFORE	SOME	
PINS	MBA	
STRICT	REBOUNDS	
TRUNK	GOALS	OAT
RANG	TASTE	TORO
ALI	DAZES	COSTA
PANCAKES	SOREST	
ONE	RUIN	
PITA	OSCILLATE	
ROAR	VAULT	DOTS
OWNS	EMBER	ONCE
SAGE	READY	SHE

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7/3/19

- 41 Garbage
42 _ up;
recapped
44 After-dinner drink
45 Taro root paste
47 Inexperienced
48 Feels sick
49 Get bigger
50 Israeli dance
53 Take a fancy to
54 Word attached to gab or song
56 Tear
57 Enjoy a winter sport
59 Mai tai ingredient

Lion kills beloved peacock that flew into its zoo enclosure

Associated Press
UTICA, N.Y. (AP) — A peacock at an upstate New York zoo was killed by a lion after it flew over a fence into the African Lion enclosure.

The white peacock named Merlin was captured by a lion Wednesday morning after being unable to fly back out of an exhibit with three lions, Utica Zoo officials said.

"By the time he had realized where he was he did make an attempt to fly out," said Mark Simon, the zoo's marketing director. "And it seems that one of the lions may have swatted at him and hit him with his paw. And it seems he may have been knocked down at that point and it progressed from there."

A group of home-schooled children and their parents saw the start of the attack but were moved away from the area. Zoo workers talked to the group afterward to help them process what they witnessed, Simon said. □

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Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists
Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
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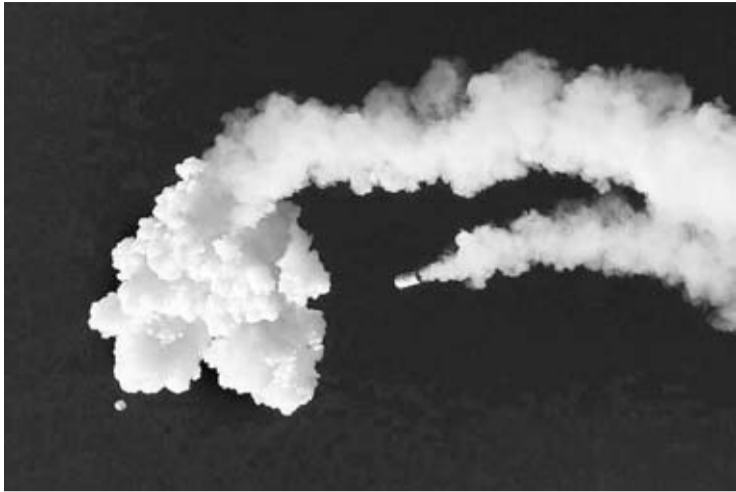
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The Orion test capsule, bottom left, and a Minotaur 4 booster rocket, center, fall to the Earth, Tuesday, July 2, 2019, as NASA conducted a full-stress launch abort test in Cape Canaveral, Fla., for the capsule designed to carry astronauts to the moon.
Associated Press

NASA launches Orion crew capsule to test abort system

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA conducted a full-stress launch abort test Tuesday for the Orion capsules designed to carry astronauts to the moon. The capsule was empty for the morning demo, which officials said appeared to be successful. Barely a minute after liftoff from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the abort motor fired, pulling the capsule from the booster about 6 miles (10 kilometers) up. The capsule continued upward another 2 miles (3 kilometers), then flipped to jettison the abort tower. NASA chose not to use parachutes to keep this test version of the capsule simple and thus save time, and so it crashed into the Atlantic at 300 mph (480 kph) as planned, the three-minute test complete. Twelve data recorders popped off in bright orange canisters before impact, for ocean retrieval. "By all accounts, it was

magnificent," said program manager Mark Kirasich. It will take a few months to go through all the data collected by the hundreds of vehicle sensors, he said. NASA aims to put astronauts back on the moon by 2024 using its still-in-development Space Launch System, or SLS, rocket. Tuesday's test represents "a really great, great step forward today for the team," Kirasich said. This was the second abort test for Orion, conducted at a speed of more than 800 mph (1,300 kph). The first, in New Mexico in 2010, was lower and slower. A launch abort system on a Russian rocket saved the lives of two astronauts last October. They launched again in December, this time making it to the International Space Station, where they're still working. "It had been 35 years since anyone on the planet had had to exercise their launch abort system," NASA astronaut Randy Bresnik told reporters Monday. □

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In this June 4, 2019 file photo, Washington Nationals senior vice president Gregory McCarthy, from left, Ellen Stofan of the National Air and Space Museum, statue donor Allan Holt and Nationals owner Mark Lerner unveil a statue of Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 spacesuit before an interleague baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Nationals in Washington.
Associated Press

Don't recall Apollo 11? Global festivities have you covered

By JEREMY REHM
Associated Press
You can run a race, hit a museum, shoot off a rocket or count down to the moment 50 years ago that Neil Armstrong first stepped foot on the moon. There's no shortage of events and exhibits celebrating the historic moon landing. Museums, galleries, concert halls, movie theaters and towns with an Apollo 11 connection will be marking the anniversary over the next few weeks, particularly for the July 16 launch, July 20 moon landing and July 24 splashdown. In downtown Wapakoneta, Ohio — Armstrong's birthplace — the festivities include the Moon Festival Pageant, a Run to the Moon race and a "Wink at the Moon" concert, a nod to his family's request after Armstrong died in 2012. In Huntsville, Alabama, where the Saturn V rocket was developed, there'll be dancing in the streets. Residents will moonwalk down the roads of "Rocket City," reliving the day they danced in the streets in 1969. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center is also going for a world record. On July 16

at 8:32 a.m. local time, exactly 50 years after Apollo 11 astronauts blasted off for the moon, the museum will attempt to set a Guinness World Record by launching 5,000 model rockets simultaneously. "It's going to be epic," said Pat Ammons, spokeswoman for the museum and its popular space camp. The cardboard rockets will be set up in circles representing the five F-1 engines that propelled Saturn V into space. The museum has also invited space fans around the world to launch their own rockets that day. So far, people from 29 countries have joined, including Argentina, Vietnam and China, Ammons said. NASA will mark the occasion on the eve of the landing anniversary with a live, 1 ½-hour broadcast on NASA TV from several sites, including Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the launch site for Apollo 11 crew of Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is throwing an astronaut golf tournament, astronaut parade and astronaut pub crawl in Florida. And there's nowhere

better to learn about the moon landing than the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum's weeklong "Apollopalooza" in Denver. Peanuts character Snoopy will make appearances in his astronaut regalia at Comic Con in San Diego and at Space City in Toulouse, France for the countdown to man's first steps. Can't join Snoopy? NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Armstrong Museum in Wapakoneta will do public countdowns as well. And as part of their weeklong celebrations on the National Mall, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum will host "The Eagle Has Landed," a free late-night celebration with scavenger hunts, stargazing and a countdown. Some of the world's famous art galleries are also joining in the fun. Iconic and some rare drawings, paintings, films, astronomical instruments, photographs and even cameras that were flown in space will go on display. "It's just extraordinary how magical these photographs are," said art historian and exhibit curator Diane Waggoner. □

She said, he said: What's next with Taylor Swift's catalog?

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift's feuds can captivate the public almost as much as her music, and her latest emotional salvo against one of music's top managers not only made headlines but got key players in the industry riled up, with the likes of Justin Bieber, Halsey and Demi Lovato publicly choosing sides as accusations and insults were posted furiously on social media.

But days after the storm, experts say Swift and Scooter Braun, who manages Bieber and Ariana Grande and now owns Swift's masters, will have to find a way to work together — both to preserve Swift's rich musical legacy but also make money and do good business.

"Whether anyone likes it or not, Scooter Braun just became one of Taylor Swift's most important business partners (and) these are people that need to work with each other now," said Bill Werde, former editorial director of Billboard and director of the Bandier program for recorded and entertainment industries at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

"(Scooter) wants her to continue to be the biggest star in the world for as long as possible because that's how he's going to get the best return on his investment," Werde continued. "I think that in the not too distant future you're going to see ... things get better. You know, you're going to see some olive branches." On Sunday, Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced that it acquired Big Machine Label Group, the label led by Scott Borchetta and home to Swift's first six albums, including the Grammy winners for album of the year, 2008's "Fearless" and 2014's "1989." Swift said in November she signed with Universal Music Group instead of staying at Big Machine because she knew that resigning with the label would only result in her not owning her future work.

Once the news broke, Swift penned a scathing Tumblr note, saying she was sad



This combination photo shows Taylor Swift at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on May 1, 2019, left, and Scooter Braun at the 2019 MOCA benefit in Los Angeles on May 18, 2019.

Associated Press

and gossiped out that her music catalog now belongs to Braun.

"When I left my masters in Scott's hands, I made peace with the fact that eventually he would sell them. Never in my worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scoot-

er," she said her post. "Any time Scott Borchetta has heard the words 'Scooter Braun' escape my lips, it was when I was either crying or trying not to. He knew what he was doing; they both did. Controlling a woman who didn't want to be associated with them.

In perpetuity. That means forever."

"When Taylor decided to make a deal for future records someplace else, she ... certainly knew that Big Machine would be sold probably sooner than later," said Larry Miller, the director of the music business

program at New York University's Steinhardt school. "It's unfortunate that she feels the way that she does about the place that her catalog is now going to live."

But what seemed to first be about music ownership and artists' rights turned into dramatic theater, as Swift also wrote about her clashes with Kim Kardashian and West, and claimed she didn't know about the sale of her catalog until the news was announced Sunday. The social media showdown played out throughout the day, with Borchetta providing details of the text he says he sent to Swift about the deal the night before it was announced. He even shared screenshots of a contract between the two of them discussing a possible new deal that would also allow her to own all her masters. Braun's wife and his clients including Lovato and Bieber showed him support, while Halsey, Todrick Hall, model-actress Cara Delevingne and music video director Joseph Khan were #TeamTaylor. □

Academy welcomes 842 new members, half of them women

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Monday invited 842 members from 59 countries to the Oscars organization and, for the first time, reached gender parity in its new class of inductees. Half of the new invitees to the film academy are women. In 10 of the 17 branches — including the directing, writing and producing branches — more women than men were invited. This year's class of new members also includes 29% people of color.

That's a notable turnaround for an organization that has sought to diversify its ranks following criticism for all-white acting nominees in 2015 and 2016. Since 2015, the group's overall female

membership has grown from 25% to 32%, the academy said. Overall membership of people of color has doubled, from 8% to 16%.

To aid in the swift overhaul of the academy, the group last year invited a record 928 members. While smaller, this year's class still ranks as one of the academy's largest in its 92-year history. New invitees include Lady Gaga, Sterling K. Brown, Claire Foy, Letitia Wright, Tom Holland and Adele. Newly invited directors include "Crazy Rich Asians" filmmaker Jon Chu, "The Babadook" director Jennifer Kent and the filmmaking duo of Phil Lord and Chris Miller.

If most accept their invites, the film academy will number more than 9,000 members. □



This combination photo shows, top row from left, Sterling K. Brown, Letitia Wright, Lady Gaga, and bottom row from left, Claire Foy, Tom Holland and singer Adele, who are among 842 people invited to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Monday, July 1, 2019.

Associated Press

Creator of HBO's 'Euphoria' says it tries to be 'empathic'

NEW YORK (AP) — In the pilot of the new HBO series "Euphoria," a young woman is about to be assaulted by an angry drunk in the kitchen at a house party. Her hand happens to find a kitchen knife. She raises it. "You want to hurt me?" she screams at her attacker. "Put the knife down," the drunk now pleads. "You want to hurt me?" she repeats. "You have no

idea." Then she slashes her own arm. Appalled as her blood spills, the bully backs off. The assault is abruptly canceled. Sam Levinson, the creator and writer of the show, drew on his own youth for the scene. At 16, he avoided getting beaten up at a party by similarly out-crazying his bully. "Part of what I love about this show is that I can take



This image released by HBO shows Zendaya, right, and Hunter Schafer in a scene from "Euphoria," airing Sundays at 10 p.m. ET on HBO.

Associated Press

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PBP SUNDAY, JUNE 30 AT 1:00PM

ANNABELLE COMES HOME

VERA FARMIGA | PATRICK WILSON

PH	MON-THU	4:30	6:55	9:20
	FRI	4:30	6:55	9:20 11:45
YIP	SAT	2:05	4:30	6:55 9:20 11:45
	SUN	2:05	4:30	6:55 9:20

CXC

PBP	MON-THU	3:50	6:10	8:30
	FRI	3:50	6:10	8:30 10:50
	SAT	1:30	3:50	6:10 8:30 10:50
	SUN	1:30	3:50	6:10 8:30

PBP

YIP	MON-THU & SUN	8:50
	FRI-SAT	8:50 11:15

ESCAPE PLAN THE EXTRACTORS

SYLVESTER STALLONE | DAVE BAUTISTA

PH	MON-THU	4:55	7:10	9:25
	FRI	4:55	7:10	9:25 11:40
	SAT	2:40	4:55	7:10 9:25 11:40
	SUN	2:40	4:55	7:10 9:25

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU	5:40	8:15
	FRI	5:40	8:15 10:50
	SAT	3:05	5:40 8:15 10:50
	SUN	3:05	5:40 8:15

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	3:45	6:30	9:15
	SAT-SUN	1:00	3:45	6:30 9:15

YESTERDAY

HIMESH PATEL | LILY JAMES

PH	MON-THU	5:40	8:15
	FRI	5:40	8:15 10:50
	SAT	3:05	5:40 8:15 10:50
	SUN	3:05	5:40 8:15

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	3:45	6:30	9:15
	SAT-SUN	1:00	3:45	6:30 9:15

MIB INTERNATIONAL

CHRIS HEMSWORTH | TESSA THOMPSON

PH	MON-THU	5:50	8:25
	FRI	5:50	8:25 11:00
	SAT	3:15	5:50 8:25 11:00
	SUN	3:15	5:50 8:25

PBP

YIP	MON-THU	4:20	9:20
	FRI	4:20	9:20 10:00
	SAT	1:50	4:20 9:20 10:00
	SUN	1:50	4:20 9:20

Disney Aladdin

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD

PH	MON-FRI	6:00	8:50
	SAT-SUN	3:10	6:00 8:50

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

Disney Pixar TOY STORY 4

TOM HANKS | TIM ALLEN

PH	MON-THU	4:00	6:25	8:50
	FRI	4:00	6:25	8:50 11:15
YIP	SAT	1:40	4:00	6:25 8:50 11:15
	SUN	1:40	4:00	6:25 8:50

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	4:10	6:30
	SAT-SUN	1:50	4:10 6:30

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	3:50	6:05	6:55
	SAT-SUN	12:55	1:35	3:50 6:05 6:55

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU	5:25	7:45
FRI	5:25	7:45 10:00
SAT	3:10	5:25 7:45 10:00
SUN	3:10	5:25 7:45

CHILD'S PLAY

AUBREY PLAZA | MARK HAMILL

PBP	MON-FRI	5:30	7:35	9:40
	SAT-SUN	1:20	3:25	5:30 7:35 9:40

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

ANNA

SASHA LUSS | HELEN MIRREN

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	8:20
	FRI-SAT	8:20 10:55

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PET 52

PATTON OSWALT | KEVIN HART

PBP	MON-FRI	4:00	6:00	8:00
	SAT-SUN	2:00	4:00	6:00 8:00

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

experiences that happened in some way, shape or form and I can give them away to these other characters who can experience it in their own way and in their own circumstances," he said. "That's ultimately what storytelling is all about for me." The eight-episode "Euphoria" follows a group of suburban high school students as they try to construct an identity amid shifting allegiances and against a backdrop saturated with social media. The soundtrack ranges from '50s crooner Jim Reeves to Beyoncé, Lil Wayne and Drake, who is an executive producer. The show stars former Disney Channel star Zendaya as Rue, an on-and-off recovering drug addict who narrates her life. It also stars Hunter Schafer, a transgender woman to whom Levinson gave the knife scene. The show has drawn criticism for its frankness, but its creator says it captures something important. "It's about addiction and it's about friendship and it's about the people who you meet who can change your life, and it's about holding onto these small moments of joy when they come your way because everything feels fleeting when you're younger," said Levinson, who also directed five episodes.

Other recent shows — like Netflix's "Sex Education" and "13 Reasons Why" — have explored the underbelly of teen life, but not like this. On "Euphoria," there's ugly sex, full frontal nudity, and several disturbing and violent scenes, with drug highs that are depicted with room-turning or face-melting effects. Parents — with the exception of Rue's mom — are often portrayed as out of step and self-medicating, usually with a beer or wine. Or they're sociopaths, like one father who has a video collection of his rapes. In the absence of any helpful adults, Rue gives tutorials about how to beat a drug test or the finer points of sexting. She takes whatever she can to reach nothingness — cocaine, psychedelics, oxycodone, liquid valium or fentanyl. "I know you're not allowed to say it, but drugs are kinda cool," she explains in the second episode. "I mean, they're cool before they wreck your skin and your life and your family." Levinson, the 34-year-old son of director Barry Levinson, drew on his own struggles with addiction, and said it was important for him to show the relief that drugs can bring to someone who suffers from anxiety or depression — as well as the pain.

"Portraying it in an honest way is the best way to create empathy for addicts and their families, because I believe empathy is the only way that we can communicate," he said. The portrait of teens that emerges is frightening — lots of drugs and sexual activity, but with a skewed vision of sex since they're raised on porn. They're also addicted to devices, sharing explicit videos and photos. "It's 2019 and unless you're Amish, nudes are the currency of love," we are told. "So stop shaming us." It's a rough ride that even the stars of the show feel. "There are some days where I go home and I'm tired and I'm like, 'All I did was cry today,'" the 22-year-old Zendaya said. "I just need to hibernate for, like, three days and watch 'Harry Potter.'" On the night the show premiered, the actress tweeted a warning, noting it was designed for "mature audiences." She added: "It's a raw and honest portrait of addiction, anxiety and the difficulties of navigating life today." The conservative advocacy group Parents Television Council issued a warning, calling out HBO for "overtly, intentionally, marketing extremely graphic adult content — sex, violence, profanity and drug use — to teens and preteens."

'Golden Girls' appears to get better with pop culture age

By TERRY TANG
Associated Press

Alexandra Wilkinson was only 2 months old when "The Golden Girls" ended its television run in 1992.

But she became a fan last year while taking a course called "Women and Aging: Lessons from the Golden Girls" at California State University, Long Beach. Now she streams episodes on Hulu. She owns a "Golden Girls" T-shirt. And when she graduated recently with a master's degree in gerontology, she decorated her cap with a picture of "Golden Girl" Sophia along with the sardonic Sicilian's trademark phrase, "Picture it."

"I was amazed at how this TV show from before I was born really related to so many topics I'm learning about right now," said Wilkinson, 27. "It doesn't even matter what they're talking about, whether it's a serious concept or not. Their personalities just have a way of bringing humor into everything."

The class, which finished its second year in May, is the latest example of the surprising pop culture longevity of Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia.

The Emmy-winning series revolved around four older women living together in Miami. It starred Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan,



This Dec. 25, 1985 file photo shows the stars of the television series "The Golden Girls", from left, Estelle Getty, Rue McClanahan, Bea Arthur and Betty White during a break in taping in Hollywood, Calif.

Estelle Getty and Betty White, who is the only living cast member at age 97 (White, through her agent, declined an interview request). The show aired on NBC from 1985-1992.

Just in the last few years, however, there's been a wave of merchandising, from a trivia game to Chia pets. Funko, known for its Pop dolls of sci-fi and fantasy characters, created "Golden Girls" figures, a limited-edition cereal and, most recently, PEZ dispensers. In 2015, a fan built an

unofficial Lego set of the women in their home. Next February, a "Golden Girls" theme cruise will launch from — where else? — Miami.

Marsha Posner Williams, a co-producer on the series' first three seasons, said the creators simply set out to tell stories about an often-overlooked segment of the population.

"This was a way of showing that even though you might be of a certain age, you're not dead," Williams said. "You're full of life, full

of laughter, full of sarcasm and it can be quite joyful." Unlike the '80s fashions worn in the show, the dialogue still holds up, Williams said, resonating with many people, from the gay community to millennials.

"All the issues are so real that they talk about, even though it was 35 years ago," she said.

H. Alan Scott of Los Angeles has co-hosted a "Golden Girls" podcast for four years called "Out On the Lanai," a reference to the patio where the women would

often talk. He also stages drag shows as Sadie Pines, a riff on the fictitious Shady Pines retirement home where Sophia used to live. He calls the show "timeless in a lot of ways because they weren't necessarily topical in the jokes they did."

Maria Claver, a gerontology professor who created the CSU Long Beach class with colleague Long Wang in spring 2018, thinks nostalgia is one reason "The Golden Girls" endures. Many fans who watched when it originally aired are now in or facing their golden years. And the episodes have been helpful illustrations for her students.

"I think one of the strengths of using a show like 'Golden Girls' is that you can address sometimes uncomfortable or difficult topics with humor," Claver said. "I think that makes students comfortable to talk about things like sexuality among older women." The weekly class touched on subjects like menopause, addiction, sexuality, dementia and caregiving. Claver and Wang would screen a relevant episode and then lead a discussion. There were guest speakers, including Williams. As a super-fan, Claver also can't help but delight in turning students on to the show's entertainment value. □

Associated Press

'Evergreen' is a textured, emotionally charged tale

By BRUCE DESILVA
Associated Press

"Evergreen," by Howard Owen (Permanent Press) When Willie Black was 15 months old, his father, Artie Lee, was killed in an apparent automobile accident. That's all Willie — police reporter for a Richmond, Virginia, newspaper — knows about his dad. He's never been curious about the man.

That changes when Willie's aunt on his father's side summons him to her deathbed. She's been tending Artie's grave in Evergreen, an abandoned cemetery, and now it's up to Willie to

inherit the chore.

Readers of Howard Owen's underappreciated Willie Black novels already know that Willie's father was black, that his mother was white, and that they weren't allowed to marry in 1960s Virginia. But in "Evergreen," the eighth book in the series, they'll grow as curious as Willie about what really put Artie in his grave. Finding out is no easy task. Willie's mother won't say and urges Willie to drop it. Artie's old pals reminisce about his saxophone playing but clam up about his death.

The police chief says there

were rumors that the car crash was no accident but has no details.

Old newspaper files are no help. The death of a black man didn't merit a news story in 1961 Virginia.

Patiently, Willie squeezes a few minor details from townsfolk old enough to remember Artie. Each time he gets a scrap of information, he circles back, telling the witnesses what he knows and teasing out a bit more.

He does this so skillfully that it is a pleasure to watch him work.

Eventually, he learns that Artie's death was connect-

ed to a Ku Klux Klan rally, a car bombing and a series of betrayals by friends and relatives who were threatened by racist police officers unless they talked. The result is a conclusion that is both wrenching and satisfying.

Readers seeking the thrills of most popular crime fiction won't find it here. Instead, they will find a textured, emotionally charged tale about coming to terms with growing up biracial in America told in the precise language of a writer who honed his craft during 44 years in the newspaper business. □



This cover image released by Permanent Press shows "Evergreen," a release by Howard Owen.

Associated Press

State mapmaker brings creativity, whimsy to Ohio road maps

By JULIE CARR SMYTH
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — If your summer travel plans involve traveling through Ohio and you're still a fan of paper maps, it's time you met Bruce Hull.

He's the guy who's been injecting visual flair, handy information and a hidden bit of his own family history into Ohio's road maps for almost two decades. Hull's artistry has appeared on millions of maps helping drivers navigate the state, which has the nation's busiest highway system after California, Texas and Florida.

As a layout design artist with the Ohio Department of Transportation since 1989, Hull has creative control over the map's look and feel. He selects the images, the design, the paper, even the type of fold that's used.

"Initially, my goal was to go to either New York, Chicago or San Francisco, because those were the big advertising meccas at the time," said Hull, 60, who studied advertising at the Columbus College of Art & Design. "Then life happened."

Hull fell in love, got married and had a daughter.

He also happened to like the variety of his job in communications at the Transportation Department, putting together posters, newsletters, in-house publications and visual panels



In this June 6, 2019, photo, Bruce Hull points to an image of his daughter on a state map as he is interviewed at his offices at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus.

Associated Press

for road, rail and motorcycle maps that, back then, were assembled by an outside consultant.

In those early days, photos were black-and-white, film was developed in labs, layouts were by hand and color was added using sheets of film cut to fit. Anything resembling desktop publishing was a thing of the future.

"Nothing was ever too technical because it was just impossible to do at the time," said Hull.

The first map he designed on his own came in 2001-2002. That's also when Hull began what would become an inside joke on the

maps: including a photo of his daughter.

"Because we had seat belt laws, I was looking for a stock picture of a kid in a car seat. I found one, but it was \$160," he said with an easy laugh. The department balked at the expense. "So I thought, well, I've got a 6-year-old. I'll just throw her in the back of the van and take her picture." Ashley Hull has appeared in every state map since. Unbeknownst to most of the general public, they've been watching her grow up — in photos while camping, biking, driving or laughing with high school friends. "She's the most famous person you've never heard of," said department spokesman Matt Bruning.

Hull acknowledges that his daughter's generation — she's 25 now — has largely abandoned printed maps. In the 1990s, Ohio printed 5.25 million maps on average during each four-year gubernatorial term. By last year, that figure had fallen to 2.25 million.

But, with a Dad who's the state mapmaker, abandoning paper wasn't an option for Ashley.

"When she first got her car, she wanted a GPS. So I said, well, you learn to read this first," he said, brandishing one of his paper road maps. "I showed her these are the interchanges, these

little numbers are the distances between interchanges, things like that. In case your power dies, you won't get lost."

And those who know Ashley do recognize her from the map, she said.

"It's not like my picture's in Time magazine or something," she said. "But it's just, it's cute to have people point out like, 'Hey I found you in this information center at this park because you're on the map.'"

If you work anywhere near Hull's heavily adorned cubicle, you also might be co-opted into helping out. To determine the fold he'll use, for example, Hull said he

slaps a piece of blank paper folded in an accordion or trifold into a co-worker's hand then watches them try to unfold it. The least cumbersome fold prevails.

The process of creating a new map begins with state cartographers, who produce the actual road map. Then a host of other state departments provide content, such as lists of Highway Patrol posts or state campgrounds, and a message from the governor.

Once all that material is in hand, Hull has free rein over the remaining spaces. One year, his design resembled the front of a refrigerator packed with photos of Ohio attractions. He always works to make featured venues reflect the diversity of the state's racial and ethnic groups, its rural, urban and natural landscapes and its cultural and recreational offerings.

Another of Hull's maps featured Ohio emblems, such as the state mammal, bird, insect and flower. Other versions have featured Ohio's scenic byways and Ohio's Native American tribes.

During the state's bicentennial year, in 2003, Hull adorned the map with a timeline of Ohio history. That included another sly family reference: A photo of his great-grandmother, Sophia Mitchell, the first black woman to serve as a mayor in the state. □



In this June 6, 2019, photo, Ashley Hull, daughter of Ohio Department of Transportation mapmaker Bruce Hull, is interviewed at her family home in Pickerington, Ohio.

Associated Press



In this June 6, 2019, photo, Bruce Hull is interviewed at his offices at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus.

Associated Press